

Middle Balbeggie Education & Training Fund

Are you....

- Living within the Thornton Community Council area?
- Doing an education or training course to boost your skills or are you planning to?
- Keen for some financial support?

Then please take a few minutes to read this information about a new charitable Fund that may be able to help you....

What is the Fund?

The **Middle Balbeggie Education & Training Fund** is linked to the wind farm at Middle Balbeggie. Up to £12,000 per year is available to support local people with vocational education and training opportunities to improve their employment prospects.

The Education & Training Fund will be kept under review but could continue operating for the life time of the wind farm which is likely to be 20-25 years.

Who can apply?

If you are over the age of 16, living in Thornton and want to do a training course or are currently on a course of study/training course to develop your skills and employability, then this may well help you!

If these examples are similar to your situation – then we'd encourage you to apply!

Joe has had a few labouring jobs since leaving school but nothing long-term. Now he's seen an ad for agency driving jobs but needs a 1-week class-2 HGV licence.

Jacqui is excited to have been offered a place at university. But her course is in the central belt so it's more sensible to move that way. She's anxious about the costs involved but keen to get on and see beyond Fife!

Dave's being made redundant next month. He's heard of a warehouse job... all he needs is a 3-day fork-lift ticket.

Margaret had a job in admin before starting to raise her family. She needs to update her computer skills at evening class to help her get back to work.

Does the course or training need to focus on a particular sector or subject?

No. The important thing is that it is a course you are committed to doing and that you can demonstrate how it will improve your prospects.

Does it matter where the course is taking place?

No, but priority is given to training providers or facilities in Fife. We appreciate though that the course you may wish to do could be further afield.

How much can I apply for and for what kind of costs?

The maximum grant award is £500 which may be used to cover part or all of the course fee along with the cost of travel, childcare and subsistence. You will need to specify on your

form the likely costs you will incur. You will also need to tell us when and where the course will take place and what enquiries you've made about securing a place. If you need to find additional funding to take the course you will need to tell us where this will come from.

Am I eligible if I'm attending a full time course at university or college?

Yes, if you are attending a course of study/training course at a college, university or private training provider, you can apply for up to £500 to assist with your costs. Please note that restrictions may apply.

Am I eligible if I am still at High School but attending a college course perhaps one day a week?

No. If you are still at High School your costs should be covered by the local authority.

When do I need to apply?

This scheme operates on a rolling basis until further notice. However please be aware that funds are limited – so applications will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis.

How will I get the money?

Expenses can be paid directly by sending you a cheque. Foundation Scotland can also arrange to make payment directly to the training provider when the grant is being used towards course fees.

My family are able to support me. Can I still apply?

Yes, the Fund does not apply a personal 'means test'.

I receive other support. Can I still apply?

Yes, but we do ask for details of other grants, bursaries, etc. If we receive more applications than the Fund can support we may use this information to help us make the fairest decision.

What's the catch?

By providing these grants the Fund aims to encourage and support local people to improve their skills and life chances. We believe that committing community money in this way can help motivate and inspire people to aim higher and achieve more.

If your application is successful, we will ask you to let us know how you got on with your course and whether the grant has helped you find work that suits you. We will also ask you to promote the Fund so others get to hear about it.

How do I apply?

Complete the application form. Post it to **Foundation Scotland, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8DL** or email it to communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk. Emailed applications need to include scans of any supporting documents.

What happens next?

Foundation Scotland will be in touch to review your application before making a decision. If you are successful, you then complete and return a signed grant acceptance form to Foundation Scotland and the grant is then paid. If it helps we can pay the training provider directly. If you need help completing the form please contact Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0330.