



The
FUNDINGPOINT LOCAL DIGEST
Apr - May 26

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Published bimonthly, the Fundingpoint Local Digest provides up to date funding information for nonprofits in the Kildare County Council area.

Funding sources quoted reflect both local and national funding opportunities.

Information quoted directly from funder website / literature.

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Non-Mainstream Music Education Bursary Scheme

The purpose of the Non-Mainstream Music Education Bursary Scheme is to provide support to established, smaller-scale, non-mainstream music education or community music initiatives with limited or no access to other forms of public funding, through a cash grant.

Grants can be used to purchase instruments, other equipment and tuition. Grants are not intended for use on capital expenditure such as structural or building costs.

Eligibility

Applications will be considered from organisations or groups that:

- have a track record in music education
- provide non-mainstream music or community music education
- deliver non-mainstream music education for young people aged 18 years and younger
- achieve strong learning outcomes for participants

Preference will be given to those organisations or groups who can demonstrate that they cater for socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Preference may also be given to organisations or groups that are eligible and may not have received funding from this initiative previously.

Our selection of proposals will also be informed by:

- geographic national spread
- a range of music genres
- a balance of practical and theoretical approaches.

How to Apply

Deadline: 6 Apr 2026

Full guidance and application forms are available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/1a8cf1-non-mainstream-music-education-bursary-scheme/>

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Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the EU's funding programme for education, training, youth and sport.

Aims & Objectives

It aims to:

- Provide support for lifelong learning
- Contribute to building a European Education Area
- Promote learning mobility in education, training, youth, and sport
- Improve the quality of education and training systems
- Strengthen European identity and active citizenship

What does it support?

Projects addressing sector-specific priorities in the programme's strands:

- Adult Education
- Higher Education
- School Education
- Vocational Education and Training

Projects that address one (or more) of the programme's four key horizontal priorities:

- Inclusion and diversity
- Digital transformation
- Environment and the fight against climate change
- Participation in democratic life

Projects take the form of the following Key Actions:

1. Key Action 1: Learning Mobility for Individuals
2. Key Action 2: Cooperation Among Organisations and Institutions
3. Key Action 3: Support to Policy Development and Cooperation

Who can apply?

In general, any public or private organisation in a Erasmus+ Programme country can apply if they are a legal entity. Sole traders cannot apply for Erasmus funding.

Higher Education

- Students

- Staff
- Higher Education Institutions

Adult Education

- Organisations providing formal, informal and non-formal adult education
- Local and regional public authorities, coordination bodies and other organisations with a role in the field of adult education
- Organisations whose aim is to educate the general public on a specific topic or issue

School Education

- All schools - pre-primary, primary and post-primary
- Teachers
- Learners – individuals or groups/classes
- School Education staff

Vocational Education and Training

- Organisations providing initial or continuing vocational education and training
- Local and regional public authorities, coordination bodies and other organisations with a role in the field of vocational education and training
- Companies and other public or private organisations hosting, training or otherwise working with learners and apprentices in vocational education and training
- Organisations creating training and/or educational materials for staff, volunteers or other professionals

Youth

- Young people
- Youth workers
- Organisations that work directly with and/or advocate for youth

Sport

- a public body in charge of sport at local, regional or national level;

- a sport organisation at local, regional, national, European or international level;
- a National Olympic Committee or National Sport confederation;
- an organisation representing the 'sport for all' movement;
- an organisation active in the field of physical activity promotion;
- an organisation representing the active leisure sector;
- an organisation active in the field of education, training or youth.

Why the EU funds education, training, youth and sport

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [Education, training, youth and sport](#)

Budget: €26.2 billion over 7 years.

Project Examples

The [SCOPE](#) project is aimed at third sector staff and volunteers in need of capacity building, skills development and recognition of non-formal learning, particularly those who are socially excluded in such a way that it is difficult for them to access training opportunities.

The [Ethics4Sport](#) project investigates and promotes ethics and perceptions of fairness in grassroots sport.

[ASPIRE](#) was an international collaborative project that sought to find out how to best support migrants and refugees, building on the wide popularity of sports and other forms of physical activity.

National Contact Point in Ireland

[Léargas](#) for Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, and Youth strands

[Higher Education Authority](#) for Higher Education strand

Erasmus+ Sport is managed centrally in Brussels by the [European Education and Culture Executive Agency](#) and can be contacted at EACEA-SPORT@ec.europa.eu

Open Calls

Find open calls for [Erasmus+](#).

How to Apply

Find open calls for [Erasmus+](#). Or, see specific calls details below.

Erasmus+ – Adult Education: Motivation in Motion: Empowering Adults to Up- and Reskilling

This call aims to support innovative approaches to stimulate adults to engage in learning activities in their usual and trusted environments.

Deadline: 8 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 24 and 36 months.

Funding available: EUR 5 000 000

Partners required: At least 5 applicants from 3 different EU Member States or third countries

[Full Details](#)

Erasmus+ – Digital Education Content: success factors in decision making and use by teachers, trainers and school/institution leaders

This call aims to promote and establish collaboration and agreement between teachers/educators, creators/providers of digital education content.

Deadline: 8 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 24 and 36 months.

Funding available: EUR 2 000 000

Partners required: At least 5 applicants from 3 different EU Member States or third countries

[Full Details](#)

Erasmus+ – Digital Education: Public-private partnerships for ethical design, development and use of Artificial Intelligence tools in education and training

This call aims to support proposals that establish public-private partnerships for the pedagogically driven design, development, deployment and use of ethical, trustworthy AI-based resources to improve teaching and learning.

Deadline: 8 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 24 and 36 months.

Funding available: EUR 6 000 000

Partners required: At least 5 applicants from 3 different EU Member States or third countries

[Full Details](#)

Erasmus+ – Digital Education: AI-powered Personalised Learning Pathways for Basic Skills

This call aims to foster the application of (ethical, transparent, and explainable) AI-based PLPs at school education and initial VET level.

Deadline: 8 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 24 and 36 months.<

Funding available: EUR 5 000 000

Partners required: At least 5 applicants from 3 different EU Member States or third countries

[Full Details](#)

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Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation.

Aims & Objectives

It aims to:

- strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases and the European Research Area (ERA);
- boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs;
- deliver on citizens' priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals

What does it support?

It funds actions under its three pillars and one horizontal activity:

1. Pillar 1: Excellent Science aims to increase the EU's global scientific competitiveness. This pillar includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions which fund the development of excellent doctoral and postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects.
2. Pillar 2: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness supports research relating to societal challenges and reinforces technological and industrial capacities through its seven "clusters" or themes.
3. Pillar 3: Innovative Europe aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation via the European Innovation Council.

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area: This horizontal activity will increase support to EU Member States in their efforts to make the most of their national research and innovation potential.

Who can apply?

- Academia and higher education institutions
- Researchers and research centres
- Public bodies (local, regional, or national)
- Industry and private businesses
- Non-governmental organisations and nonprofits who would like to promote and facilitate engaged and ethical research into issues impacting their beneficiaries.

Why the EU funds research and innovation

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [Research and innovation](#)

Budget

€95.5 billion over 7 years.

Project Examples

[Re-InVest](#): Investing in the right to a home. This qualitative research project used a participatory action approach to co-construct policy knowledge. The research focused on the experience of lone parent families living in emergency homeless accommodation, particularly in relation to their experience of the private rental subsidy Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and of Family Hubs, a new form of emergency.

[Find more case studies on the Campus Engaged website.](#)

National Contact Point in Ireland

For [Horizon Europe \(Cluster 2\) & European Research Council](#): Irish University Association, Chiara Loda, chiara.loda@iua.ie

For [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\)](#): Irish University Association, Yvonne Halpin, yvonne.halpin@iua.ie

For Horizon Europe Health: Enterprise Ireland, [Dr Matha Cahill](#)

[Horizon Europe Contact List](#)

How to Apply

Open Calls

Find open calls for [Horizon Europe](#).

Current calls:

Horizon Europe – MSCA COFUND

MSCA COFUND co-finances new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes with the aim of spreading the best practices of the MSCA including international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as international and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

Deadline: 8 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the grant agreement

Funding available: EUR 105 457 362

Partners required: Consortium must contain three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country

[Full Details](#)

Horizon Europe – MSCA Staff Exchanges

MSCA Staff Exchanges promote innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation through exchanging staff and sharing knowledge and ideas at all stages of the innovation chain.

Deadline: 16 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the grant agreement

Funding available: EUR 97 922 509

Partners required: Consortium must contain three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country.

[Full Details](#)

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The Hospital Saturday Fund Charity

The Hospital Saturday Fund was founded in 1873, at a time when poverty, overcrowding and ill-health were prevalent and little help was available for those needing costly hospital care.

The Hospital Saturday Fund has two grant categories:

1. Standard grants of up to £2,000 or €3,000
2. Large grants to up to £10,000 or €13,500 (please note this is the maximum sum that HSF will grant).

Eligibility

The Hospital Saturday Fund will consider giving grants to registered medical health charities within

the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The Hospital Saturday Fund will also consider giving grants to individuals within the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

For medically related charities, hospitals, hospices and medical clinics:

The Hospital Saturday Fund will consider giving grants towards medical capital projects, medical care or research and in support of medical training. The Hospital Saturday Fund will also consider grants for running costs.

How to Apply

Deadline: 13 Apr 2026 (standard grants)

Full guidelines and access to online applications are [available here](#).

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Creative Ireland - Creative Climate Action Fund III (2026-2029)

The total funding available under Creative Climate Action Fund III is €6.5 million, with funding in the range of €400,000 to €750,000 available per project over a three-year period. This is an increase of budget and project length from previous funds. We are seeking innovative projects of scale and ambition that lead with a strong artistic, cultural, or creative approach to enable climate action in a community of place or practice. At the core of this fund is a focus on transforming understanding into specific and tangible climate actions. €1 million of the total fund of €6.5 million is part of the Shared Island initiative.

There will be approximately two projects awarded funding under the Shared Island allocation. We welcome applications from project teams in Ireland working in partnership with local or national community, cultural and creative organisations in collaboration with North-South partners or both North-South and East-West (Ireland-Britain) partners.

The lead applicant must be based in Ireland. The Shared Island projects may include partners from

East-West (i.e. England, Scotland, and Wales) but must include at least one partner from Northern Ireland. If projects fall under the Shared Island element of the fund, the application should demonstrate that funding will be shared fairly with partners with meaningful activity with North-South and if applicable, EastWest (Ireland-Britain) partners.

Addressing climate change requires a social and cultural transformation. It is our culture that shapes how we interact with our environment – through our habits of consumption, ideas about nature, what we value as meaningful, and what we think is possible and impossible. This is why we want to see projects which have public engagement or participation at the core. This may include the wider public, a group of people living in the same geographic place or context (e.g. urban or rural), a community of practice, a group/ organisation of shared interest or need or with a particular characteristic in common, a network of people etc.

Responses of creative or interpretive expression (whether traditional or contemporary) are invited from across the arts, cultural and creative sectors, including:

- Arts: Using the definition of arts under the Arts Act (2003), this includes architecture, circus, dance (all genres), film, literature, music (all genres), opera, street arts and spectacle, theatre and the performing arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, participatory arts, Irish language arts, visual arts and digital art.
- Culture: Includes the National Cultural Institutions, festivals, cultural heritage organisations, libraries, cultural venues, and museums.
- Creative Industries: European Union (EU) classification of the creative industries includes advertising, design (including graphic design, service design and participatory design), animation and games, AR/VR, the audio-visual sector, publishing and press, music, fashion, comedy.

Your project could involve a range of different creative disciplines/artforms across the lifetime of the project

Projects must show that they can bring about the following:

- Conceptual shifts: A change amongst those involved in their ways of seeing or approaching the issue of climate change
- Behavioural or cultural shifts: New behaviours are adopted by the individuals or organisations involved or participating in the project
- Organisational Change: People or organisations introduce new or different policies or practices as a result of the project
- Enduring connectivity: The project creates sustainable changes and allows participants/networks to continue to work together beyond the life of the project.

How to Apply

Deadline: 15 Apr 2026

Full guidelines, FAQs and application details are available here:

<https://creativeireland.submit.com/show/29>

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Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) is the EU's funding programme for citizens' engagement and the implementation of EU rights and values.

CERV at a Glance

CERV funds projects aimed at protecting and promoting EU values such as democracy, fundamental rights, equality, and the rule of law

CERV is competitive and organisations with prior EU funding experience are more likely to be successful applicants

CERV provides funding for both national and transnational projects

Aims & Objectives

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme aims to:

- protect and promote Union rights and values
- promote rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality
- promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States
- raise awareness of the common European history

What does it support?

CERV funds activities:

- promoting non-discrimination and gender equality, the rights of the child, European remembrance and citizens' engagement, as well as combat racism and gender-based violence
- strengthening the protection and promotion of the rule of law and democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance
- supporting, empowering and building the capacity of civil society organisations active in the promotion of values and rights, at local, regional, national and transnational level.

Specific activities funded include:

- training activities, workshops, conferences
- mutual learning and cooperation, capacity building
- town twinning
- media campaigns, awareness raising and dissemination activities

Who can apply?

- Civil society organisations
- Public authorities
- European-level networks
- Think tanks

Why does the EU fund European citizenship and values?

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [European citizenship and values](#).

Budget

The programme has a total budget of €1.56 billion for 2021-2027.

Project Example

ACTZen – Active Citizen for People and Planet

[Oxfam Ireland](#) was a partner in the CERV-funded project “ACTZen - Active Citizen for People and Planet.” Delivered from 2022 to 2024 by 7 partners in 5 EU counties, ACTZen's focus was to

engage citizens in discussions and action related to the climate and environment and propose solutions to decision makers. [Explore the project results on the European Commission's website.](#)

National Contact Point in Ireland

There is no Irish National Contact Point for the CERV Programme. Please contact the [Access Europe team](#) with any questions.

How to Apply

Open Calls

Find open calls for [CERV](#).

Current calls:

CERV – Network of Towns

The programme promotes exchanges between people of different countries, reinforces mutual understanding and tolerance and gives them the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity through networks of towns.

Deadline: 16 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 12 and 24 months

Funding available: EUR 12 000 000

Partners required: The application must involve at least four applicants

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Tackling gender stereotypes in media and advertising

This call aims to challenge and reduce gender stereotypes and bias in media and advertising through capacity building, awareness-raising, and the promotion of gender-sensitive practices.

Deadline: 28 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 5 EUR million

Partners required: At least two applicants

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Promoting and supporting the implementation of the provisions of the Pay Transparency Directive and respect of equal pay for equal work and work of equal value

This call aims to strengthen pay transparency, promoting equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and building the capacity of employers, social partners, and public authorities to prevent and address gender-based pay discrimination.

Deadline: 28 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 5 EUR million

Partners required: At least two applicants

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Supporting equal participation and representation of women and men in economic and political decision-making

This call aims to strengthen the equal participation and representation of women and men in political and economic decision-making, including in corporate leadership and public life.

Deadline: 28 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 6 EUR million

Partners required: At least two applicants

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Supporting work-life balance, equal share of care responsibilities, family-friendly policies among employers and the value of care sector jobs

This call aims to promote work-life balance, an equal sharing of care responsibilities, family-friendly workplace practices, and the social and economic value of care work.

Deadline: 28 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 7 EUR million

Partners required: At least two applicants

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Promoting citizens’ active engagement and democratic participation in public policymaking, beyond elections, as well as broader civic engagement

The objective of the call is to promote citizens’ and representative associations’ participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas of Union action. This call focuses on promoting citizens’ active engagement and democratic participation in public policymaking, beyond elections, as well as broader civic engagement.

Deadline: 29 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 10 EUR million

Partners required: Minimum 2 applicants from two different eligible countries

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Supporting free, fair and inclusive electoral processes

The objective of the call is to promote citizens’ and representative associations’ participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas of Union action. This call focuses on supporting free, fair and inclusive electoral processes (focusing on information about elections and electoral rights, especially for mobile EU citizens, in full respect of Member States’ competences in organising elections.)

Deadline: 29 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 10 EUR million

Partners required: Minimum 2 applicants from two different eligible countries

[Full Details](#)

CERV – Countering the spread of disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) in democratic debate and processes

The objective of the call is to promote citizens’ and representative associations’ participation in

and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas of Union action. This call focuses on countering the spread of disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) in democratic debate and processes.

Deadline: 29 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 12 to 24 months

Funding available: 10 EUR million

Partners required: Minimum 2 applicants from two different eligible countries.

[Full Details](#)

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Dept. of Foreign Affairs - Reconciliation Fund

The 2026 Reconciliation Fund's Annual Funding Round (for 12-month funding) is now open for applications. The link to the online application portal is now live at [DFAT Grant Application Portal](#).

Minister McEntee launched the new Reconciliation Fund Strategy (2026-29) on 09 March. A copy of the strategy is available [here](#).

What the Reconciliation Fund is

The Reconciliation Fund awards grants to organisations working to build better relations within and between traditions in Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between Ireland and Britain. The Reconciliation Fund operates one annual funding round for 12-month grants. Our Strategic Partnerships stream for 3-year funding will re-open for applications in early 2026 for eligible organisations.

The 2026 Reconciliation Fund Annual & Strategic Funding Rounds will open on 18th March 2026.

Strategic Partnership Applications (3 year funding) will be by invitation only to eligible groups, with further details being made available at the workshops. Annual Round funding will be an open call.

What we do

We give funding to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community groups, and voluntary organisations to support reconciliation and to create better understanding between people and traditions on the island of Ireland and between Ireland and Britain.

All applications to the Reconciliation Fund are assessed using the criteria laid out in the [Reconciliation Fund's Strategy 2026-2029](#). It is important when considering your eligibility for the fund that you look at this document and reflect on whether your project meets the aims laid out in it. The Reconciliation Fund supports many unique, diverse and important projects which all have a unifying thread – they all aim to play a part in creating a better relationship and understanding between traditions on the island of Ireland and between Ireland and Britain. The Reconciliation Fund can support many aspects of proposed projects, including core and capital costs (see further information under 'How to Apply').

Background of the Reconciliation Fund

The Reconciliation Fund has been running since 1982, and was increased significantly in 1998, following the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

The Department of Foreign Affairs operated an Anti-Sectarianism Fund in addition to the Reconciliation Fund in the period 2008-2014. Since 2014, in accordance with the Reconciliation Fund Strategy, the two funds have been merged into a single Reconciliation Fund. Anti-sectarianism is now mainstreamed throughout the entire programme and is one of a number of priority areas to be addressed by the Fund.

The last number of years has seen an increased commitment by the Government to supporting the Reconciliation Fund. Funding levels for 2026 will stand at just over €8million.

Am I eligible?

Please consult our new [Strategy](#) for eligibility criteria.

Other factors guiding consideration of applications

In addition to assessing whether applications contribute under the new Strategy, we will be guided by a number of other factors in considering funding applications.

General factors

General factors which will be used in assessing applications will include:

Geographical location of activity, with the aim of ensuring an appropriate spread of funding;

Value for money of the project;

The organisation's financial management capacity, governance arrangements and sustainability;

The funding environment for the particular sector.

Methodology

The Reconciliation Fund welcomes applications that propose new and innovative approaches, as well as those that use methods rooted in current practice. We also welcome applications that use any of a wide number of approaches to bring people from different backgrounds together (e.g. arts, culture, sports, skills development, dialogue) exploring how society can address issues of common concern to all.

In the case of more sectorally based projects (sports, community services, skills development e.g. for employability etc.), in terms of eligibility for funding, it is not sufficient to have groups come together on a cross-community and/or cross border basis. There must be a project component that allows for facilitated focus on broader issues that are relevant to reconciliation. The intention would be to encourage participants to engage with each other and listen to each other's perspectives/narratives, to stimulate reflection and discussion, to promote understanding and tolerance and ultimately to help develop links and relationships.

For example, in the case of sports related applications, while it would have merit in its own right to bring groups together to receive coaching and/or play matches/tournaments, there would need to be a further dimension to the project as outlined above. One possible approach would be to incorporate into the project facilitated sessions that would explore any/all of the following: i) issues of culture/identity (including those associated with particular sports), ii) experiences of sectarianism, iii) participants' levels of practical knowledge/understanding of lived experiences of those from other traditions etc.

Support for new generations of practitioners

We recognise that Reconciliation cannot be achieved without a sufficient cohort of dedicated well-trained practitioners who can carry on into the future the vital work of many who have dedicated

themselves to peace and reconciliation since the very difficult years prior to the signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

In order to support the emergence of a new generation of people working to build peace and reconciliation, we will therefore consider applications that seek to provide young adults working in the sector with the skills and knowledge which will help them to play an active role in that work.

Capacity-building for organisations

We recognise that there is a wide spectrum of groups of different sizes and capacities working in reconciliation. The Reconciliation Fund is open to supporting organisations to build up their own capacity where the organisation can show an identified need while also demonstrating that it has strong potential to carry out useful work in line with our priorities.

Potential for transmission of learning

The potential for projects to produce learning which is useful both to project organisers themselves and to others working in the sector is important. Both the Reconciliation Fund and the organisations we support have a role to play in ensuring that learning from their projects is shared, so we particularly welcome funding proposals which include structured plans for achieving this.

What I can apply for?

In the annual funding round, grants are awarded for a 12-month period and can cover the direct cost of Project activities, Core Operational costs, or Capital costs.

Support for Project activities can cover a range of costs e.g. venue hire, catering, preparation of resources/materials, facilitation fees, travel costs for participants, etc.

Applications for project funding may also include a request for support for Core Operational costs, such as salaries and overheads, and Capital costs, where they are directly attributable to the project or programme for which funding is sought e.g. where salary costs are incurred for the purpose of managing/coordinating/administering the project or rent/heat/light/phone charges etc. are incurred in order to deliver it.

Salary Costs

If you are applying for funding to cover salary costs, please note a Reconciliation Fund grant cannot be used towards the costs of private occupational pension schemes. Costs incurred for contributions towards social insurance payments may be included e.g. National Insurance or PRSI.

Please ensure you include a breakdown of salary, i.e. base salary and social insurance contributions, when applying for funding from the Reconciliation Fund.

We will also accept stand-alone applications for either Core Operational or Capital costs where

they are not directly attributable to a particular project. In those cases, it should be clearly demonstrated in the application form that a primary focus of the organisation's work (and of the costs in question) is to further the work of peacebuilding and reconciliation in line with the objectives of the [Reconciliation Fund Strategy 2026 - 2029](#)

We do not generally give grants for events/activities that have already taken place, or for travel off the island of Ireland. However, in certain circumstances, we will consider supporting the cost of travel to and from Britain, where such travel is deemed essential for the successful implementation of the project.

In certain circumstances, if an application for funding is deemed to be of a significant amount, additional budget detail may be required. The Reconciliation Fund Team will be in touch with you after the funding round closes to provide instruction if this is the case.

How to Apply

For those considering applying in an annual funding round, a user guide will be available to assist with using our online application system. This guide includes details of the questions which applicants are required to complete during the registration and application stages of the process.

Applications will be accepted through the online application portal until Thursday 16th April 2026 at midnight. No late applications will be accepted.

Deadline: 16 Apr 2026.

Full application guidelines and details available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-foreign-affairs/services/reconciliation-fund/>

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Foras na Gaeilge - Youth Events Scheme

Foras na Gaeilge is providing funding for appropriate youth events programmes of twelve sessions through Irish for young people between three and eighteen years of age:

- which aim to strengthen the Irish language through a mix of events;
- that are not residential events;
- which will run between 1 September 2026 and 30 June 2027;
- that are not festivals, competitions, or one day events.

Grants are awarded with public money, and Foras na Gaeilge has statutory duties to ensure the value for money of all funded projects.

Foras na Gaeilge recommends applicants seek joint funding for projects, when appropriate, and to

cooperate with other organisations in order to achieve the best value from the Foras na Gaeilge grant.

We particularly welcome applications from organisations located in areas recognised in government strategies or legislation.

How to Apply

Deadline: 17 Apr 2026.

[Visit the Foras na Gaeilge website for further guidelines.](#)

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Social Entrepreneurs Ireland - The Ideas Academy

Do you have a strong insight into a social or environmental problem? Do you have an idea or a solution for that problem? Are you ambitious, entrepreneurial, and passionate about social change?

Overview

This three-month programme provides you with the knowledge and tools you need to help you to deepen your understanding of the problem and kick-start your idea to get testing and piloting.

Participants on the Ideas Academy are supported to clearly articulate, refine and progress their solution, to build skills and accelerate learning in core areas of importance to social entrepreneurship, and to move from idea to piloting.

The programme is mostly delivered online with 5 in-person events and workshops (as detailed in the applicant guide).

Training & Support

The Ideas Academy is designed to help participants clearly articulate, refine, and progress their

solutions to social challenges. The programme provides structured training and support to build essential skills, accelerate learning, and move from idea to action.

Over twelve weeks, participants engage in a mix of in-person and online sessions, including:

- Core learning workshops to refine problem understanding, validate solutions, develop an action plan, and practice storytelling and pitching
- Group discussions for deeper exploration of learnings and peer feedback and support
- Networking opportunities with fellow social entrepreneurs and sector experts
- The programme includes 5 in-person events: a selection workshop, a launch, two mid-programme events, and a graduation ceremony. Participants also have access to ongoing support from SEI and a wider community of changemakers.

Time-commitment

The programme requires a commitment of 3-6 hours per week, which includes your attendance at workshops and group discussions, as well as work you will action outside of these sessions.

Participants must attend all core learning workshops to successfully complete the programme.

Funding Available

At the end of the programme all participants have the opportunity to apply to pitch for a portion of €20,000 seed funding to further pilot their idea.

How to Apply

Deadline: 20 Apr 2026.

[Visit the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland website for full application guidelines.](#)

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Social Entrepreneurs Ireland - The Impact Programme

Have you piloted your solution and proven its impact? The Impact Programme supports social entrepreneurs who are ready to build stronger foundations to ensure they thrive and identify their route to scaling for greatest impact.

Overview

The Impact Programme is a nine-month journey designed to help social entrepreneurs strengthen their foundations and identify where they can have their greatest impact. Through expert mentorship, tailored consultancy, and unrestricted funding of €20,000, we provide the critical supports needed to help you thrive.

The programme focuses on four key areas: building a stronger organisation, developing resilient leadership, amplifying your voice, and creating long-lasting social change. Whether it's refining your strategy, strengthening governance, or expanding your reach, we work with you to identify your biggest opportunities for growth and impact. Join Ireland's largest community of social entrepreneurs and take your impact to the next level.

Support

The programme provides targeted support and engagement through a series of structured activities: Discovery sessions to get to know each other, the team in SEI and your story; Co-Design days to collectively plan the programme; Group sessions including workshops and work discussion groups; Individual Supports including coaching, mentoring and consultancy. These sessions are facilitated by members of our team and wider community including our supporters, fellow support organisations, partners, funders and sector expert consultants.

All activities are aligned with four focus areas:

1. **Stronger Organisation:** Training, advice and support in areas related to improving an organisation's structure, operational capacity, solution delivery, financial capacity and impact measurement.
2. **Resilient Leaders:** Leadership development and growth to strengthen the resilience and adaptability of social entrepreneurs.
3. **Impactful Voice:** Connecting and communicating with a range of stakeholders.
4. **Long-Lasting Social Change:** Tackling the problem, not just delivering the solution including networking building and collaborations within the eco-system.

Time-commitment

The programme is designed to be flexible and tailored to individual needs. Awardees will engage in approximately 2-4 days per month, participating in a mix of 1:1 meetings, expert-led workshops, and collaborative group sessions. As the programme progresses, time commitments may increase, particularly as participants work toward tangible deliverables.

Funding

Each awardee receives €20,000 in unrestricted funding.

Funding can be allocated to scaling needs such as team expansion, legal structuring, and strategic marketing.

Participants access additional supports worth €20,000-€30,000 per organisation, including expert consultancy, leadership development, and bespoke training.

How to Apply

Deadline: 20 Apr 2026.

[Full applications guidelines are available here.](#)

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Rethink Ireland - Growth Fund 2026-2029

The Growth Fund aims to scale proven social innovations to achieve widespread impact and transformative change in Ireland. Apply today!

Fund Overview

The Growth Fund is a €3.6 million three-year fund that aims to scale proven social innovations to achieve widespread impact and transformative change in Ireland.

The Fund has been set up to support previous Rethink Ireland awardees who have graduated from their Rethink Ireland programme or are in the final year of a programme.

The fund will support up to 3 mature, high-performing organisations, providing total awards up to €1.15 million per awardee over 3 years, combining cash grants with bespoke business support through Rethink Ireland's venture philanthropy model.

The Growth Fund is made possible through support from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

What do successful applicants get?

Up to a 50% uplift on funding secured*

A tailored non financial supports package to support awardees to grow, on topics such as strategy, scaling, impact management and financial resilience, designed in consultation with awardees.

Access to Rethink Ireland's networks

*Awardees need to secure philanthropic funding commitments for the Growth Fund totalling minimum €450,000 (€150,000 per annum x 3 years) to maximum €750,000 (€250,000 per annum x 3 years) in 2026. Awardees will receive up to a 50% uplift on funds secured. Awardees can submit

their application in April 2026 and, if successful as a Growth Fund nominee, they will have until October 2026 to secure their philanthropic funding commitments and provide donor letters of commitment (template provided below). If successful as a Growth Fund nominee, Rethink Ireland Business Development Team will support you on your fundraising journey by opening up doors to our existing donors and helping to identify any potential prospects. For all aspects of fundraising – the Growth Fund nominee will lead with Rethink Ireland in support. The Rethink Ireland Board will decide how much money to award, which may be less than the amount requested.

Eligibility & Criteria

This fund is open to previous Rethink Ireland awardees.

Organisations must meet both Rethink Ireland’s criteria and the specific criteria for the Growth Fund, as set out below:

Rethink Ireland Core Criteria

- The project must address a critical social or environmental issue
- The project must be innovative in an Irish context
- The project must be based on the island of Ireland and must make its main impact in the Republic of Ireland
- The project must have potential and a desire to scale or replicate in Ireland (it may also have potential internationally, but this is not a requirement)
- The project must provide evidence that it is up and running.
- Applicants must come from an entity that has a not-for-profit legal form, e.g. a company limited by guarantee, a co-operative, trust, charity.

Rethink Ireland defines a not-for-profit as any organisation whose constitution indicates it has public benefit purposes and is neither privately owned nor controlled by the State.

Growth Fund Criteria

- Demonstrate evidence of positive outcomes for the communities they serve, aligned with at least one of our investment areas (Education, Health, Equality and Green transition)
- Demonstrate growth readiness, including a clear plan for scaling
- Demonstrate fundraising capacity consistent with Growth Fund expectations, including:
- Evidence of the ability to secure multi-year funding beyond Rethink Ireland
- A credible plan to grow and diversify income during the Growth Fund period

- Have graduated from a Rethink Ireland programme or be in the final year of a Rethink Ireland programme
- Have received a single Rethink Ireland cash grant of at least €50,000
- Aim to secure philanthropic funding commitments for the Growth Fund totalling minimum €450,000 (€150,000 per annum x 3 years) to maximum €750,000 (€250,000 per annum x 3 years) in 2026.

Advantageous criteria

In addition to meeting the criteria above, it is advantageous if the organisation:

- Equality: Is strengthening the equality landscape in Ireland through their activities/interventions, empowering/supporting marginalised communities and building civic power in Ireland
- Green Transition: Is having a positive effect on Ireland's Green Transition through their activities/interventions
- Works across education and wellbeing in an integrated way (for example school community models, family support approaches, or prevention models linked to learning participation)
- Has a strong evidence base and can show outcomes clearly, with a learning approach that supports scaling
- Has partnerships that strengthen referral pathways, access, and sustained engagement (for example schools, community services, health providers, employers).

How to Apply

Deadline: 20 Apr 2026.

https://rethinkireland.ie/current_fund/growthfund2026/

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Coimisiún na Meán - Sound & Vision 4

Sound & Vision 4 is a funding scheme for broadcasters and independent producers that funds the production of high-quality programmes about Irish culture, heritage, and experience and programmes to improve adult literacy.

Recent Funding Outcomes

Rath Dara Community College Music Project – In this three-part series for community radio station, Phoenix FM, listeners follow Transition Year students in a Dublin DEIS school on a music composition journey. With support from professionals, they brainstorm themes and genres, compose, perform, record, mix their music piece and promote their music online.

Additional €2 million funding secured by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to support content focusing on the voices of immigrant and new Irish Communities.

Scheme Objectives

The objectives of the Scheme are also derived from the legislation, Section 155, and are as follows:

- Quality: develop high quality programmes based on Irish culture, heritage and experience;
- Irish Language: develop these programmes in the Irish language;
- Additionality: increase the availability of programmes referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) to audiences in the State;
- Diversity: represent the diversity of Irish culture and heritage;
- Heritage: record oral Irish heritage and aspects of Irish heritage which are disappearing, under threat, or have not been previously recorded; and
- Local & Community Broadcasting: develop local and community broadcasting.

Programme Themes

Programme Themes Sound & Vision 4 offers funding support for the production of new quality television and radio programmes on the following four themes.

These reflect the provisions of the Act and the BAI accepts applications for programmes on either an individual theme or encompassing a number of themes.

(a) Irish culture, heritage and experience

The legislation offers the following examples of programme topics related to these themes and these are outlined below for reference.

History (including history relating to particular areas, groups or aspects of experience, activity or influence);

Historical buildings;

The natural environment;

Folk, rural and vernacular heritage;

Traditional and contemporary arts;

The Irish language; and,

The Irish experience in European and international contexts.

These are not the only categories of programmes under this theme that can be supported by the Fund. The Authority takes a broad view of Irish culture, heritage and experience and includes all of its contemporary expressions. The statute offers examples of programme themes but applicants to the Fund need not limit their programme proposals to these areas. The ideal outcome for the Fund is one that has a balance between reflections of Ireland's past and its vibrant present.

(b) Adult Literacy or Media Literacy

Programme topics should be focused towards methods of improving adult literacy or media literacy. Adult Literacy is defined as involving speaking, listening, reading, writing, numeracy and using everyday technology to communicate and handle information. Media Literacy is defined in the Act as bringing about a better public understanding of the nature and characteristics of broadcast and related electronic media, the processes by which it is selected and produced, the available access systems and their regulation.

(c) Global issues Programmes which raise public awareness and understanding of global issues impacting on the State and countries other than the State.

(d) Irish Language Programmes under (a), (b) and (c) above in the Irish Language.

How to Apply

Deadlines:

Apr 23 – deadline for Round 59 (Shared Benefit)

21 May – Round 60, Shared Island, Shared Stories – opens for applications (deadline 4 June).

Please find the guide and full application details here:

<https://www.cnam.ie/industry-and-professionals/media-development/support-funding/sound-vision/>

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Creative Europe Programme

Creative Europe is the EU's funding programme for providing support to the culture and audiovisual sectors.

Aims & Objectives

The Creative Europe programme aims

- to strengthen the transnational creation and circulation of European works and artists;
- to enhance the capacity of European cultural and creative sectors to nurture talents, to innovate, to prosper and to generate jobs and growth.

What does it support?

[CULTURE strand](#): initiatives promoting and enhancing artistic and cultural cooperation at European level

[MEDIA strand](#): actions encouraging the competitiveness, innovation and sustainability of the European audiovisual sector

[CROSS-SECTORAL strand](#): initiatives promoting innovative actions and collaboration across the audiovisual and cultural sectors

Who can apply?

Non-profit organisations, municipalities, associations, town councils, charities, foundations, etc.

The sectors funded may include architecture, archives, libraries and museums, artistic crafts, audiovisual (including film, television, video games and multimedia), tangible and intangible cultural heritage, design (including fashion design), festivals, music, literature, performing arts, (including theatre and dance), books and publishing, radio, and visual arts.

Why the EU funds art and creativity

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [Arts, creativity and heritage](#).

Budget

€2,54 billion over 7 years.

Project Examples

[Currently funded projects in Ireland](#)

[Creative Europe: Culture cooperation projects selected from 2014 to 2020](#)

National Contact Point in Ireland

[Creative Europe Desk Ireland](#)

How to Apply

Open Calls

Find open calls for [Creative Europe](#).

You can read more on the [Irish Creative Europe website](#) and contact the national [Creative Europe Desk](#).

Current funding calls:

Creative Europe – Creative Innovation Lab

This call aims to support policy cooperation and innovative actions supporting all strands of the Programme and to promote a diverse, independent and pluralistic media environment and media literacy.

Deadline: 23 April 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: 24 Months

Funding available: EUR 7 021 561

Partners required: Applications by single applicants are allowed

[Full Details](#)

Creative Europe – European Cooperation Projects Small Scale

European Cooperation Projects are transnational projects involving organisations in the cultural and creative sectors from different countries taking part in the programme.

Deadline: 5 May 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Projects should not normally exceed 48 months

Funding available: EUR 24.109.270

Partners required: Minimum 3 independent entities from 3 different eligible countries

[Full Details](#)

Creative Europe – European Cooperation Projects Medium Scale

European Cooperation Projects are transnational projects involving organisations in the cultural and creative sectors from different countries taking part in the programme.

Deadline: 5 May 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Projects should not normally exceed 48 months

Funding available: EUR 36.163.904

Partners required: Minimum 5 independent entities from 5 different eligible countries

[Full Details](#)

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Training Links 2026 – 2028

Calling all charities, community and voluntary organisation and social enterprises. [Training Links](#), a workforce development funding and support programme, is now open for applications. You are invited to apply for grants ranging from €10,000.00 – €50,000.00.

With a total fund of €240,000.00, Training Links 2026 – 2028 will support a range of initiatives targeting priority areas, including:

- Digital Transformation
- Leadership and Management Development
- Green Transition
- Innovative Business Models
- Workplace Innovation
- Addressing Sector Challenges.

How to Apply

Deadline: 24 Apr 2026 @ 5pm.

Full details available here: <https://www.wheel.ie/training-links-programme-2026>

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2026 LGBTIQ+ Community Services

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley has announced that applications can now be made for funding from the LGBTIQ+ Community Services fund.

The 2026 LGBTIQ+ Community Services Funding Call is an important element in supporting the implementation of the National LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Strategy II 2024-2028, which was published in June 2025.

There are two streams of funding under the LGBTIQ+ Community Services Fund

Scheme A is open to applications from existing LGBTIQ+ NGOs and community organisations working with the LGBTIQ+ community to support new initiatives and to maintain and enhance existing services and initiatives.

Scheme B will provide small grants to organisations for projects that promote visibility and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ persons.

How to Apply

Deadline: 30 April 2026 @ 12 noon.

Groups can access a detailed guidance document and complete an online application form at the following links:

Scheme A – <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Scheme-A>

Scheme B – <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Scheme-B>

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Patagonia Environmental Grants

Patagonia supports environmental organizations with bold, direct-action agendas and a commitment to long-term change.

We support innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities. We focus on places where we've built connections through outdoor recreation and through our network of retail stores, nationally and internationally.

We believe local battles to protect a specific stand of forest, a stretch of river, an indigenous wild species or a community from a polluting refinery build public support and confront larger, more complex issues like climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental justice.

We encourage work that brings underrepresented communities to the forefront of the environmental movement and defend communities whose health and livelihoods are threatened by environmental exploitation.

We support multipronged campaigns that push for greater environmental protections and force the government to abide by its own laws.

We fund work that:

- builds an equitable, inclusive and diverse environmental movement
- confronts systemic bias, discrimination and injustice in environmental policy or outdoor spaces
- is action-oriented
- focuses on root causes
- has a clear strategy
- identifies specific goals and objectives that can be effectively measured to evaluate success
- builds public involvement and civic engagement
- works to build an inclusive and diverse environmental movement
- takes place within the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, **Ireland**, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

How to Apply

Our funding focuses on organizations that have or can create a strong base of support. Because we're a privately held company, we have the freedom to fund risk-taking, off-the-beaten-track groups, and that's where we believe our small grants are most effective.

We accept one proposal per group in a given fiscal year (May 1–April 30). Our typical grant size ranges between \$5,000 and \$15,000. Proposals are reviewed and grants decisions are made by an employee grants council in Europe.

Deadline: 30 Apr 2026.

[Learn more here.](#)

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Parks Foundation for Animal Welfare - Awards Programme

The foundation's trustees are committed to supporting dynamic initiatives that promise to catalyze progress in animal protection worldwide. The trustees are especially interested in supporting medium or small-sized organizations with good ideas and plans for the use of Parks funding.

The focus of our grantmaking continues to evolve over time, as we embrace new concerns and opportunities to support innovation and leadership in advancing animal protection.

The applicant organization must be a 501(c)(3) public charity in the U.S. or registered under similar authority in its home nation.

The Parks Foundation does not fund individuals.

The foundation does not fund:

- capital campaigns
- endowment funds
- building renovations
- government agencies
- organizations with large cash reserves
- campaigns for the reintroduction of 'listed' endangered species, or
- land preservation.

Geographic scope

The foundation favors applications from outside the United States, understanding that the funds provided often go further in the international arena. That said, our annual funding is divided between organizations in the U.S. and those in other nations.

Academic studies

The foundation supports academic studies of the human-animal bond, the mitigation or elimination of animal pain and suffering, the effectiveness of humane education, human-animal coexistence and other relevant topics.

The foundation supports advanced animal welfare training, studies in the field of human behavior change and social marketing studies, conferences, student fellowships and the development and validation of non-animal methods in science.

Animal sanctuaries

The foundation is highly selective in its support of animal sanctuaries.

In areas of new or unmet needs—for example, with respect to volunteer training, social marketing, certification and capacity-building initiatives—the foundation occasionally supports domestic and captive wild animal sanctuary facilities.

We prefer that such sanctuaries be verified or accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) or a comparable organization.

Animals in research, testing and education

The foundation welcomes grant applications concerning the advancement of non-animal methods, studies of contemporary animal use in research, testing and education, and related academic and practical research and initiatives to alleviate pain and suffering in animals used in laboratories.

Companion animals

PLEASE NOTE: While we value deeply the work of U.S. animal shelters and rescue organizations, the foundation DOES NOT accept or review applications from U.S.-based groups seeking support for fundamental shelter and expenses and needs such as:

- spay/neuter programs and surgeries
- normal general operating expenses
- temperament testing
- software development or purchases
- behavioral training
- caging systems
- capital grants/campaigns for construction or renovation
- trap-neuter-return activities, or
- the ordinary practice of veterinary medicine

Non-U.S. organizations

For applicant organizations outside the United States, there are no restrictions regarding grants concerning companion animal work. Those applicants may apply for grants in support of all companion animal care and relief work, so long as their projects include strict accountability measures and progress reports.

Disaster planning and recovery

The foundation makes grants in support of planning and implementation for long-term disaster recovery programs.

Farm animals

The foundation supports efforts to address the suffering of animals in factory farming through research, social marketing, and reform campaigns to reduce specific cruelties, and advance public embrace of more humane lifestyles and diet.

Humane education

The foundation funds innovative educational outreach programs designed to reach schoolchildren and other audiences with the message of kindness to animals.

Generally, the foundation favors humane education initiatives that promise to advance knowledge and practice, with measurable outcomes.

The foundation does not fund salaries and overhead costs for routine operation of humane education programs.

Wildlife

The foundation does not make grants to organizations for the purpose of saving endangered or threatened species, unless the proposed project addresses the plight of species that are victims of gross cruelty or exploitation.

The foundation supports advocacy/educational campaigns and ethical research to advance the protection of wildlife through:

- campaigns to reform state wildlife agencies
- scientific research, social science analysis, strategic planning and social marketing campaigns to benefit wildlife populations in the U.S. and abroad
- efforts to promote and implement human-wildlife coexistence initiatives advice hotlines, databases, publications and other resources

Working animals

The foundation supports global in-country campaigns to address the plight of working animals, especially equines.

The foundation supports service animal programs that feature a strong research and outcomes agenda, or evaluation studies of such programs.

Grant renewals

The Parks Foundation welcomes second- and third-year applications for renewal from organizations that have complied with all requirements for progress reporting and accountability.

In no circumstance will the foundation entertain a fourth-year renewal request; few applicants in that situation are asked to wait at least one year before re-applying.

Organizations should have animal protection as their primary purpose.

How to Apply

Deadline: 1 May 2026.

Full details available here: <https://www.parksfoundation.org/program-overview>

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Culture Ireland Grants

Culture Ireland operates a range of funding programmes to support and promote the presentation of Irish arts internationally. The current initiatives include a Regular grants round, the See Here scheme, Delegate Scheme and a Showcase programme.

Regular Grant Scheme

Culture Ireland offers support to Irish professional artists, arts organisations and international presenters to present work by Irish artists at significant international venues and festivals.

In supporting an event, Culture Ireland traditionally offers grant funding towards costs which relate directly to the international presentation of the event, i.e. travel and travel related costs such as transport, freight, accommodation and subsistence. In order for an application to be considered, the applicant must have an international partner or be an international presenter who will provide a fee to the artist and assist with promotion and presentation costs.

How to Apply

Deadline: 5 May 2026.

<https://www.cultureireland.ie/funding/>

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SuperValu TidyTowns Competition

The national SuperValu TidyTowns competition is an annual contest organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition is supported by the title sponsor SuperValu and many other agencies.

The competition involves participating areas being rated on all aspects of their local environment and prizes awarded to the best under many different categories. The overall winner is “Ireland’s Tidiest Town”. which is announced at a national ceremony in September each year.

With progress monitored and detailed feedback provided year on year, most participants initially enter the competition to generate interest about the environment in their community and create a solid platform on which to raise issues with the relevant authorities. Over time, the areas attain a standard where competing for major prizes is within reach. As such it is very much a development programme for towns and villages across Ireland.

Different aspects of the competition are explored in this section, from the types of areas that enter to the assessment criteria used. We hope after reading it, you will be encouraged to enter the competition this year.

Eligibility

The SuperValu TidyTowns competition is open to all areas, big or small, urban or rural, and each are entered under their respective population categories. These range from the smallest, Category A – Under 200, to the largest, Category H – 25,001 and over. Categories A & B fall within Village category, C & D fall within the Small Town category, E & F fall within the Large Town category and G & H fall within the Large Urban Centre category.

Entrants are the ‘ambassadors’ for their area in SuperValu TidyTowns – normally one person from the TidyTowns group is listed as the primary contact on the entry form.

Ideally, entry should be made by a broad-based group that represents all sectors of the community. However, it is not expected that these structures must be in place before entering. Entry from a credible body, such as a Local Authority, Development Agency, Residents’ Group or Local Business, will also be accepted.

Nonetheless, in all cases, it is expected that participation will be used to generate wider interest in the effort within the community. Progress on encouraging broader community involvement is a major part of the SuperValu TidyTowns' assessment criteria.

How to Register your Entry for the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition

PLEASE NOTE – ALL GROUPS CAN NOW REGISTER THEIR ENTRY AND UPLOAD COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS THROUGH OUR ONLINE PORTAL – competition.tidytowns.ie

We have provided all groups with a FAQ document on how to register your entry for the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. The FAQ document is also available on our website.

When registering your entry, log into competition.tidytowns.ie – you will first register your groups details. You will then be prompted to upload your completed application form and map. Please note, the inclusion of a map is mandatory.

You may also upload additional information such your 3-5 year plan and additional documentation such as photographs. We recommend you save your photographs in a word or pdf document before uploading.

You will then be prompted to agree to the terms and conditions. Once you agree to these conditions, and submit your entry, a message will be displayed on screen verifying your registration.

Completed entries should be registered online by Monday 11th May 2026

<https://www.tidytowns.ie/>

Please contact TidyTowns@drcdg.gov.ie if you have any further queries on how to submit your entry to the 2026 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition.

Prizes

On average there are over 220 prizes given out each year, with approximately €270,000 awarded under the main competition. Over €70,000 is awarded in special prizes outside the main competition.

All main prizes are based on the scores achieved by entrants in the competition as follows –

Endeavour Awards for the biggest improvement by an entrant in each county from the previous year.

County Awards for the top three entrants in each county.

Regional Awards for the top-scoring entrant in each region.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals for entrants with scores that fall within a set range from that

year's winning score.

Category Awards for the highest scoring entrants in the Village, Small Town, Large Town and Large Urban Centre categories.

Ireland's Tidiest Town Award for the highest scoring entrant in the whole competition.

There are also separate awards sections for Island entrants and Gaeltacht entrants.

2026 SPECIAL AWARD ENTRY FORMS

Our sponsored Special Awards are organised in parallel to the main competition and look to reward initiatives focused on improving your community. Entry is open to all Tidy Towns Groups as well as other interested individuals or groups. We are delighted to announce two new sponsors under our Special Awards category for 2026.

See special awards here: <https://www.tidytowns.ie/the-competition/special-award-entry-forms/>

Note: the deadline for Special Awards is 8 June 2025, separate to the main competition deadline.

How to Apply

Deadlines:

11 May 2026 (main competition)

9 Jun 2026 (Special Awards)

[Visit the Tidy Towns website](#) for full information.

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Benefact Movement for Good Awards

The Benefact Group Movement for Good is your chance to help us give away our profits to good causes.

In just one minute, you can nominate the charities of your choice for our draws. Every entry gives them the chance to receive a donation that could make a real difference.

£1,000 Draws

The Benefact Group Movement for Good is your chance to help us give away our profits to good causes. Give your favourite charities the chance to win £1,000!

Nominate the causes closest to your heart once and they'll be entered into all upcoming £1,000 draws.

We give all our available profits to charity and through this programme, one simple nomination can transform profit into impact.

Special Draws

The Benefact Group Movement for Good is your chance to help us give away our profits to good causes.

Give your favourite charities the chance to win £5,000!

Our special draws award £5,000 to charities making a difference in the fields of Health, Community and Animals and Wildlife.

We give all our available profits to charity and through this programme, one simple nomination can transform profit into impact.

How to Apply

Deadlines:

11 – 24 May 2026 (Health & Wellbeing 5K award)

22 Jun – 5 Jul 2026 (Community 5K award)

Visit www.movementforgood.com to nominate a charity now.

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CLÁR-Funding for Small-Scale Rural Projects

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd Riachtanais) or Funding for Small-Scale Rural Projects is a targeted

investment programme which provides funding for small-scale - infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline.

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) provides funding for small-scale infrastructural projects in rural areas.

Reopened in 2016, CLÁR aims to support sustainable development in identified areas by attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local funding and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

The scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is delivered by local authorities in consultation with groups in local communities.

CLAR 2026

The 2026 programme will be delivered through three separate Measures as follows:

1. Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities
2. Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responder and Meals on Wheels Transport
3. Measure 3: 'Our Living Islands'

Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities.

Measure 1 is administered by the Local Authorities therefore application and expressions of interest forms will be available from Local Authorities directly.

You must contact your Local Authority or County Council in relation to Measure 1.

In turn, the Local Authority or County Council submits the selected applications to the Department (up to the maximum submission allowed) for consideration and assessment.

The Local Authorities will set their own deadline date for receipt of applications from prospective applicants to them. Please contact your Local Authority to find out their deadline date.

Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responder and Meals on Wheels Transport.

Measure 2 is administered directly by the Department.

The application form is [available here](#) with a document outlining the supporting documents required.

Please complete the form in full and submit it with required supporting documents to CLAR@drcdg.gov.ie by 22 May 2026.

Measure 3: Our Living Islands

Measure 3 is administered directly by the Department.

The application form is [available here](#) with a document outlining the supporting documents required.

Please complete the form in full and submit it with the required supporting documents to CLAR@drcdg.gov.ie by 3 July 2026

How to Apply

See deadlines above.

Full info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-rural-and-community-development-and-the-gaeltacht/policy-information/cl%c3%a1r-funding-for-small-scale-rural-projects/>

To find all CLÁR approved funding to date visit this webpage: [CLÁR Funding Approvals](#)

National and county area funding maps can be found here: [CLÁR Funding Area Maps](#).

Areas targeted under the CLÁR Programme are parts of counties: Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and Waterford, Westmeath, Wicklow and all of County Leitrim.

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Irish Hospice Foundation - Scholarships in End-of-Life & Bereavement Care

Irish Hospice Foundation offers a small number of scholarships up to the value of €3,000 each to make Level 9 education in end-of-life and bereavement care accessible to multiple disciplines.

Applications for the 2026/2027 academic year are now open.

We are inviting applications from people who are pursuing Level 9 Post graduate study in Ireland,

furthering IHF's 3 strategic goals which are as follows:

Conversations about Death

This scholarship is aimed at encouraging applicants who have conversations and about death and dying in the community, and who may be involved in thinking ahead or Advanced Care Planning. Any level 9 study/course which is relevant to this topic is eligible. Suitable applicants may come from a range of professions including social care, healthcare, community development, homeless services, migrant and traveller communities.

End of Life and Dying

This scholarship seeks to encourage further education, understanding and management of risk factors at end-of-life. Any level 9 study/course which is relevant to this topic is eligible. Suitable applicants may come from a range of professions including End-of-life coordinators, chaplains, healthcare professionals within the sector, including healthcare assistants, nurses, medics, GPs, allied health professionals (occupational therapists, physiotherapists), community and residential palliative care teams.

Bereavement and Grief

This scholarship sets out to empower communities, workplaces and schools to consciously support grief on a day-to-day basis and is aimed at those who support others in their bereavement and grief. Suitable applicants may come from a range of professions including counsellors, psychotherapists, psychologists, social workers, advocates and bereavement support workers.

*When submitting your application form, please tick the strategic aim most relevant to your work and further education.

Eligibility

Applicants must be eligible to register (or already be registered) for a named and accredited post-graduate NQF Level 9 or 10 (or equivalent) study programme in a relevant area during the current academic year.

Appropriate study leave must have been secured.

Applicants must normally be resident in Ireland and eligible for EU fees.

Conditions

The course of study must be successfully completed in the year for which funding was awarded.

Awardees will be asked to write or record a short account of their learning on successful completion of the study period.

Any publications or conference outputs arising directly from the period of study should

acknowledge Irish Hospice Foundation funding.

How to Apply

Deadline: 31 May 2026.

To apply and learn more about the scholarships, visit: <https://hospicefoundation.ie/our-supports-services/education-training/scholarships-in-end-of-life-and-bereavement-care/>

For any questions about the scholarships or application process, email: scholarship@hospicefoundation.ie

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