



*The*  
**FUNDINGPOINT LOCAL DIGEST**  
*Feb - Mar 26*

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Fingal County  
Council



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**the**  
**Wheel**  
Stronger Charities.  
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Published bimonthly, the Fundingpoint Local Digest provides up to date funding information for nonprofits in the Fingal County Council area.

Funding sources quoted reflect both local and national funding opportunities.

Information quoted directly from funder website / literature.

# Contents

The Arts Council - Culture Night Late.....	3
Age & Opportunity - Active National Grant Scheme .....	5
The Arts Council - Arts Grant Funding .....	8
Creative Europe Programme.....	10
Emigrant Support Programme .....	12
NYC - Artist in Youth Work Scheme .....	15
The Arts Council - Artist in the Community Scheme .....	17
The Arts Council - Creative Places Award .....	18
Community Monuments Fund.....	20
HSE - National Lottery Grants .....	21
Rise Community Fund.....	23
The Arts Council - Opera Projects and Production Award .....	25
The Arts Council - Deis Recording & Publication Award.....	29
The Arts Council - Commissions Award (Music, Opera, Festivals).....	31
Creative Ireland - Creative Communities on a Shared Island .....	33
Creative Ireland - Creative Health & Wellbeing.....	35
Creative Ireland - Creative Youth Nurture Fund .....	39
Local Enhancement Programme 2026 .....	42
The Arts Council - Young Ensembles Scheme .....	45
Christian Brothers Edmund Rice Trust Fund .....	47
World Habitat Awards.....	50
Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund 2026 .....	52
Foras na Gaeilge - Summer Camp Scheme 2026 .....	55
The Hospital Saturday Fund Charity .....	56
CESCA Equality & Social Inclusion Small Grants Scheme 2026.....	57
Circle K - Cash for Clubs .....	59
Mohamed bin Zayed - Species Conservation Fund.....	61
Music Network - Music Capital Scheme Piano Award.....	63
Additional Resources .....	65

# The Arts Council - Culture Night Late

Culture Night Late is designed to support events that will begin after 9pm and continue late into the night on Culture Night, Friday, 18 September 2026.

The award is offered in partnership with the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport under the NightTime Economy Taskforce. The award aims to promote more inclusive and innovative flagship late-night arts events that cater for a diverse range of audience types. Events should attract a large, diverse audience and offer audiences a greater diversity in their Culture Night experience that extends late into the night.

The award will support:

## **Strand 1: Culture Night Late Flagship Events**

Strand 1 will support innovative, large-scale, flagship late-night events, beginning after 9pm, with an audience capacity of over 500 people. The lead applicant must be either a local authority arts office, arts centre, arts organisation, arts festival or production company.

Applications must be made in partnership and involve a local authority arts office, either as lead applicant or project partner.

Each local authority arts office can only submit one application as lead applicant or supporting partner under Strand 1.

In 2026 it is anticipated that up to eight awards will be made under Strand 1.

## **Strand 2: Culture Night Late Events**

Strand 2 will support innovative late-night events for a unique audience experience, beginning after 9pm, with an audience capacity of over 200 people. The lead applicant must be either a local authority arts office, arts centre, arts organisation, arts festival or production company.

Applications must be made in partnership and involve a local authority arts office, either as lead applicant or project partner.

Each local authority arts office can only submit one application as lead applicant under Strand 2. Local authority arts offices can support additional applications under Strand 2 as a partner. This should be clearly documented in the application.

In 2026 it is anticipated that up to 10 awards will be made under Strand 2.

## **Eligibility**

The award is open to local authority arts offices (including Ealaín na Gaeltachta), arts festivals, arts centres, production companies and arts organisations only to create a Culture Night Late event in a public space or place, arts centre or venue.

Lead applicants must be either:

- A local authority arts office in partnership with one or more arts centre/arts organisations/arts festival/producer/curator/production company, or
- An arts centre/arts organisation/arts festival/production company in partnership with a local authority arts office and other arts partners/artists.
- In partnerships where more than one applicant qualifies to be the lead applicant, the identification of the lead applicant is at the discretion of the partners.
- All applications must involve a local authority Arts Office, who are the local coordinators of Culture Night. Other potential partners include arts centres, arts organisations, arts festivals, artists, non-arts groups/organisations/production companies /agencies etc.
- Non-arts organisations could be considered partners in a project on condition that the project involves two or more arts partners.
- The applicant is the organisation that will receive any grant offered and which will be required to accept the terms and conditions of the grant.
- The grant will be paid only into a bank account held in the name of the lead applicant.
- All documentation provided must be in the name of the lead applicant.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 3 Feb 2026 (opening) / 5 Mar 2026 (closing)

Full guidelines available here: <https://artscouncil.ie/funding-opportunities/culture-night-late/>

[back to top ↑](#)

# Age & Opportunity - Active National Grant Scheme

Since 2001 Sport Ireland has provided funding to Age & Opportunity for our Active Programme to help increase the participation of older people in recreational sport and physical activity. This Active National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People is one element of the extensive Active Programme which has resulted from this funding.

## OVERALL AIM

The Active National Grant Scheme aims to assist in the implementation of locally developed, well-planned initiatives designed to increase participation in recreational sport and physical activity by older people. In particular, the scheme is aimed at:

- Supporting the work of Age & Opportunity's Active Programme including the network of PALs (Physical Activity Leaders) and CarePALs, and the development of Go for Life Games and other initiatives,
- Assisting local clubs/organisations/care settings to enhance existing opportunities for their members in recreational sport and physical activity,
- Assisting local clubs/organisations/care settings to start new initiatives geared at involving older people in recreational sport and physical activity,
- Encouraging sports clubs to provide new initiatives within their clubs aimed at getting older people involved in their sport,
- Assisting those working in care settings (both nursing homes and day care settings) to introduce more initiatives to increase physical activity levels of those in their care.

## Eligibility

Grants are available to all eligible local clubs, groups, care settings and organisations that promote increased participation in recreational sport or physical activity for older people as a main element of their activities.

Umbrella bodies, or their agents, are not eligible for funding under this grant scheme. Please be advised that, in accordance with the communication issued in 2025, Local Sports Partnerships are no longer eligible to apply for grant funding under this scheme from 2026 onwards.

Sports Clubs please note: Funding for sports clubs will only be considered if the application specifically relates to older people (aged 50+ years), and they will be the overall beneficiaries of the grant.

We will be prioritising sports like Pickleball, Go for Life Games and adapted sports like Walking Football and Walking Hockey etc.

Funding for sports equipment will be prioritised for equipment specifically designed or adapted for older people.

## **KEY CRITERIA**

Applications are encouraged from clubs/organisations/care settings that:

- Have the potential to increase levels and frequency of participation in recreational sport and physical activity among older people in their setting or local area,
- Can act as showcases or successful demonstration projects that can be replicated by other clubs/organisations/care settings in the future,
- Have the potential to develop into a sustainable, longer-term programme,
- Are developing initiatives in designated disadvantaged areas,
- Are developing initiatives for minority older populations or older groups with special

needs,

- Have one or more active Physical Activity Leaders (PALs),
- Have a CarePAL in their setting,
- Are focused on an outdoor sport or physical activity initiative,

### ***PALs Workshops***

Applicants who have had previous successful applications processed should take advantage of PALs workshops. These are a series of workshops teaching older people how to lead their peers in sport and physical activity.

*Contact the Active Programme team or your local contacts listed on pages 7-8 of the grant application form for further information.*

## **AVAILABLE FUNDING**

Funds permitting, grants will be between €250 and €700\* and may be allocated towards the cost of the eligible initiatives outlined below.

*\*Applications from Community Development Programmes (CDPs), Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) etc. that provide wider access to community groups may be allocated funding outside of these limits.*

## **WHAT WILL BE FUNDED?**

1. Physical Activity Programme - For example:
2. A five-week programme to introduce older people to an activity such as Go for Life Games, aerobics, aquafit, tai chi etc. Costs of hall hire will only be considered if necessary for the five-week programme and forms part of the overall cost,
3. An initiative by a sports club to involve more older people – the purchase of specialised equipment, facility hire, or a qualified independent instructor might form part of the overall cost,
4. An initiative by a sports club that reaches out to older peoples' groups within the community like Active Retirement, ICA groups or Men's/Women's Sheds etc.
5. A series of yoga or dance classes delivered online to older people,
6. An outdoor activity like a cycling/walking programme,
7. Any initiative that involves more marginalised groups within the community e.g. Migrant or Traveller populations,
8. Any initiative within a care setting or nursing home that encourages residents to be more physically active.
9. Purchase of Equipment / Resource Materials

For example: Go for Life Games equipment, pitch and putt set, badminton racquets.

### **3. Participation Events**

For example: Organising regular Go for Life Games or a Sportsfest aimed at introducing older people to a range of recreational sports.

## **How to Apply**

Deadline: 3 Feb 2026 (opening) / 27 Feb 2026 (closing)

Full guidelines and application details available here: <https://ageandopportunity.ie/active/age-and-opportunity-active-national-grant-scheme/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## The Arts Council - Arts Grant Funding

The purpose of Arts Grants Funding is to ensure there is a breadth of high-quality arts activity and programmes throughout the country by offering flexible support that responds to the needs of those who are making, presenting, and supporting work.

Arts Grant Funding is intended to:

- Support more than one distinct arts activity taking place within a fixed period
- 1. or
- Provide supports or facilities to artists over a fixed period.

There is no maximum award for this grant.

What are the objectives of the programme?

The focus of Arts Grant Funding is to deliver arts activity and programmes that either:

- Generate high-quality experiences for the public to engage with the arts
- 1. or
- Provide excellent services, resources or facilities that support the work of artists or the arts sector.

For example, a proposal might consist of:

- A series of distinct activities that may be related by theme, artform or arts practice, artistic vision, public engagement, and rationale.
- Several distinct projects and activities bound together by a specific focus (e.g. work in an artform or work targeted at a particular audience or community).
- The provision of training, support and/or resources or facilities for artists.
- Programmes that develop or nurture talent.
- The provision of opportunities for diverse audiences and/or particular publics to engage with arts activity.

In these guidelines we will use the term 'activities' to cover any elements within a proposal for the provision of resources or facilities as outlined above.

## Eligibility

Arts Grant Funding is open to:

- Organisations, including companies limited by guarantee (CLG), designated activity companies (DAC), partnerships, etc.
- Individuals. If two or more people want to make a joint application, one of them must act as the named applicant.

Note: if you are applying as an individual, you must show that your proposal involves collaboration with other artists and activities that include the delivery of public outcomes and/or outcomes that benefit other artists.

To be eligible to apply, you must be:

- Based or resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- 1. We may consider your application if you are based outside the Republic of Ireland. However, your application would have to convince us that your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland.
- Professional practising artists.
- 1. Even though you might not earn income continuously or exclusively from your arts practices, you must identify yourselves and be recognised by your peers as professional practising artists.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 3 Feb 2026 (opening) / 19 Mar 2026 (closing)

Full guidelines and details of how to register in order to apply online are available [here on the Arts Council website](#).

[back to top ↑](#)

# 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

## Eligibility

### 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

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:

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#### **Creative Europe – NEWS – JOURNALISM PARTNERSHIPS – COLLABORATIONS**

Deadline: 2 Feb 2026

[View Detail](#)

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#### **Creative Europe – NEWS – JOURNALISM PARTNERSHIPS – PLURALISM**

Deadline: 4 Feb 2026

[View Detail](#)

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#### **Creative Europe – NEWS – Media Literacy**

Deadline: 11 Mar 2026

[View Detail](#)

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[back to top ↑](#)

## Emigrant Support Programme

The Irish Abroad Unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade manages and coordinates the Emigrant Support Programme.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) has assisted more than 900 organisations in 51 countries. Grants issued to date total over €265 million.

Individual grants have ranged from small amounts for grass-roots groups to major allocations awarded to voluntary and community organisations operating on a large scale.

This work is conducted in partnership with Ireland's Embassies and Consulates together with a large number of Irish organisations abroad.

The funding year runs from 1 July until 30 June the following year. The application window for the Emigrant Support Programme opens every January for approximately three weeks.

### Small Grants Scheme

There is a separate application form for organisations seeking total funding of €30,000 or less (or local equivalent as per table below). This [Small Grants Scheme](#) involves a shorter application form with less reporting throughout the year.

The criteria for both ESP streams remains the same.

Region	Amount in local currency
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Britain	GBP £26,000
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United States	USD \$35,000
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Canada	CAD \$45,000
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Australia	AUD \$50,000
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Rest of world	EUR €30,000
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### Categories of funding

ESP projects must align with the objectives of the [Government's Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025](#).

The categories under which ESP can be applied for are as follows;

- Heritage - projects involving the promotion and maintenance of Irish heritage and identity overseas, such as Irish sports, Irish music, Irish dance and other arts.
- Community care - projects involving the provision of front-line welfare services including advisory, counselling, information and outreach services to Irish communities.
- Business networks - projects to support Irish business networks or other Irish professional networks overseas.
- Capital - projects involving the construction, refurbishment or purchase of capital assets. This includes projects related to website development and large digital/software projects.

Organisations may make applications in more than one category.

#### Eligibility criteria for funding

- Applicant organisation is established as a registered charity, charitable body or voluntary/not for profit organisation.
- Project meets one or more of the objectives of the ESP.
- Project addresses any of the areas highlighted in the [Government's Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025](#).
- Appropriate [governance](#) arrangements are in place for oversight and administration of funding.
- [ESP requirements](#) have been met.

Evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- The need for the project.
- Beneficiaries in the Irish community (including second and later generations), their needs and vulnerabilities.
- The impact of the project, based on clear expected outputs and outcomes.
- Partnerships with other statutory, voluntary and ESP-funded organisations to maximise service delivery to vulnerable Irish people.
- How the outcomes will contribute to the achievement of ESP's objectives.

- The capacity of the organisation to deliver the project.
- The total project cost and value for money offered.
- What funding has been secured from other sources for the project.
- The monitoring and evaluation systems in place to measure the outcomes for target beneficiaries.
- Commitment to good governance and best practice throughout the organisation.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 4 Feb 2026

Full details are available here: <https://www.ireland.ie>

[back to top ↑](#)

## NYC - Artist in Youth Work Scheme

The National Youth Council of Ireland is the representative body for national voluntary youth work organisations in Ireland. Is é Comhairle Náisiúnta na nÓg an eargas ionadaíochta an óige in Éirinn. It represents and supports the interests of 50 voluntary youth organisations and uses its collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people.

The Artist and Youth Work Residency Grant Scheme is designed to promote innovative partnerships between youth groups, artists and (where relevant) arts organisations. A residency may take the form of an artist in residence in a youth work setting and/or a youth group in residence in an arts setting.

The scheme is managed by the National Youth Council of Ireland on behalf of the Arts Council and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

There are two strands to the artist and youth work residency scheme: the Youth Arts Explorer Grant and the Artist and Youth Work Full Residency Grant.

### **YOUTH ARTS EXPLORER GRANT €1,500**

This grant is for projects, services and organisations that are exploring the introduction of youth arts experiences to their youth work setting but are not yet sufficiently experienced/confident to develop or manage a larger scale residency project. The aim of the grant is to support an organisation to explore the introduction of arts practice to the youth service.

Potential activities could include: testing an idea or concept, hosting introductory sessions, facilitating exploratory meetings between artist, young people and the youth service; or connecting the group to a local arts centre, cultural venue, etc. for a performance, workshop, or exhibition (with a view to facilitating further partnership).

### **ARTIST AND YOUTH WORK FULL RESIDENCY GRANT €5,000**

The Artist and Youth Work Full Residency Grant aims to promote innovative partnerships between youth groups, artists and (where relevant) arts organisations; to support the development of youth arts practice in youth work and support young people's access to quality youth arts experiences. A residency may take the form of an artist in residence in a youth work setting and/or a youth group in residence in an arts setting.

This grant is intended to support residency programmes that have been jointly developed by the partners involved (i.e., the artist, youth group and any other key

partner organisation), that offer meaningful creative experiences where young people are at the heart of decision-making and that fully meet the criteria for the award.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 5 Feb 2026 (opening) / 20 Mar 2026 (closing)

Scheme guidelines and application forms for the Artist and Youth Work Residency Grant Scheme 2026 will be available via the link below from the scheme launch on February 5<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.youth.ie/articles/artist-and-youth-work-residency-grant-scheme/>

If you have any queries, please contact Rhona Dunnett, National Youth Arts Programme Manager at [rhona@nyci.ie](mailto:rhona@nyci.ie)

## FAQ Sessions

Online FAQ sessions are held each year to address frequently asked questions about the scheme. In 2026, FAQ sessions will take place on:

- Tuesday, February 17th 12.00pm – 1.00pm
- Tuesday, February 24th 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Click on your choice of FAQ session below for more information and to book your place

[REGISTER FOR: Online FAQ Event Feb 17 12pm – 1pm](#)

[REGISTER FOR: Online FAQ Event Feb 24th 2pm – 3pm](#)

[back to top ↑](#)

## The Arts Council - Artist in the Community Scheme

The Artist in the Community Scheme is managed by Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts, on behalf of the Arts Council.

Opportunities available under this award include:

- A Research and Development Award (without mentoring)
- A Research and Development Award (with mentoring)
- A Recent Graduate Research and Development Award (with mentoring)
- A Project Realisation Award.

### **Mentoring within the AIC Scheme**

Artists applying for Research and Development Awards can choose to nominate a mentor, whose role is to support the development of the artist's practice and thinking within the context of collaborative arts practice. Mentors must be arts professionals relevant to the field of collaborative arts practice. For example an artist of any artform with a strong track-record of working collaboratively with communities, or curator or producer with relevant experience in working in the context of collaborative arts practice.

### **How to Apply**

Deadline: 9 Feb 2026 (opening) / 30 Mar 2026 (closing)

In advance of the closing date, application packs are available linked [on this page](#), in both English and Irish. The forms will not be available past the closing date. Please choose which award you wish to apply for, and follow the instructions found on that page.

[back to top ↑](#)

## The Arts Council - Creative Places Award

The Arts Council's objective for its Creative Places programme is to invest in places (e.g. towns, villages, suburbs, rural places) that have had fewer opportunities to take part in the arts.

Creative Places should be inclusive and diverse, and their programmes rooted in socially engaged arts practice and community-development principles. Successful applicants will build on existing cultural strengths and be led by community participation and ideas.

In particular, they will look to involve people who are often excluded.

The award has three strands:

1. Strand 1: Creative Places Seed Award
2. Strand 2: Creative Places Roots Award Phase 2
3. Strand 3: Creative Places Growth Award Phase 2

### **Strand 1: Creative Places Seed Award**

This award will be multi-annual and awarded over three years (2026, 2027 and 2028).

Strand 1 is open to Creative Places who have completed their research-and-development phase.

The award covers the appointment of a Creative Places coordinator and a programme budget. The maximum you can apply for is €335,000 over three years (€85,000, €125,000, €125,000). In 2026 it is anticipated that up to two awards will be made.

### **Strand 2: Creative Places Roots Award Phase 2**

This strand is only open to applicants who have completed their Creative Places three-year award and are now entering into the next phase of their development.

This award will be for up to two years, and applicants need to demonstrate their stakeholder engagement and programming plans for 2026 and 2027.

The maximum you can apply for is between €70,000 and €90,000 per year (i.e. a total of €140,000–€180,000).

### **Strand 3: Creative Places Growth Award Phase 2**

This strand is only open to applicants who have completed year 1 of their Phase 2 programme.

This award will be for up to two years, and applicants need to demonstrate their stakeholder engagement and programming plans for 2026 and 2027.

The priorities of this award align with the priorities of the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016–2025). This strategy will continue in operation in 2026 during the development of a new strategy by the Arts Council.

The Arts Council has identified the following as strategic priorities for support through this award:

- Public engagement: e.g. the applicant can demonstrate that the proposed place includes a higher-than-average number of people often experiencing barriers to the arts: lack of cultural infrastructure, demographic profile with high numbers of older people, youth population and cultural diversity, etc.
- Socially engaged or collaborative arts practice: e.g. the principles of socially engaged or collaborative arts practice coupled with community-development principles are clearly understood and articulated and the application is informed by this expertise.
- Research, policy and sustainability: e.g. can demonstrate public consultation and engagement, align with local regeneration policies and plans, has clear research questions (if applicable), social-impact evaluation and measurement methods, models of local approaches to collaboration, new investment models for supporting the arts, and can create a sustainable future.
- Partnership: e.g. a consortium that can demonstrate a meaningful and long-term commitment by a local-authority arts office, community-development partners, local arts organisations already working in or near the place, and socially engaged arts expertise. At least five partners are recommended.
- The level of cash and in-kind investment by the supporting partner(s). This must be a minimum of 30% of the overall costs for Strand 1, Strand 2 and Strand 3.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 12 Feb 2026

Full application guidelines available here: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Creative-Places-Award/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Community Monuments Fund

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage James Browne TD and Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O’Sullivan TD, have launched the 2026 Community Monuments Fund.

Next year’s fund will invest €7.5 million to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future. It is estimated that the funding for 2026 will support approximately 120 projects nationwide. To date, the fund has been awarded to over 740 projects across Ireland.

The core aims of the Community Monuments Fund are to conserve, maintain, protect and promote local monuments and historic sites. The scheme has three streams to support these aims:

- Stream 1 will offer grants up to €100,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments
- Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

This scheme is administered by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage through the Local Authorities. Interested parties should contact the relevant Local Authority to enquire about applications.

### How to Apply

Deadline: 13 Feb 2026

To find out more and to apply, please see here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/press-releases/75-million-available-to-protect-archaeological-monuments-in-2026-community-monuments-fund/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## HSE - National Lottery Grants

We offer National Lottery grants to health and social care projects.

Community groups and voluntary organisations can apply.

You must provide health or social care services to the community. For example, you might help people with a disability, older people, carers or disadvantaged groups.

Public bodies, including the HSE, cannot apply for this funding.

### **Important dates**

Wednesday 14 January 2026 - applications for 2026 funding opens.

Friday 13 February 2026, midday - the deadline for applications.

Friday 29 May 2026 - we will contact all applicants to let them know the outcome of their applications.

### **Projects we can fund**

We fund one-off projects and services that improve the health and social care needs of communities.

For example, you can apply for funding to:

- buy equipment and small fixtures and fittings like hoists, tables, and chairs
- run camps, classes, courses, personal development training, information or activity events

You must be able to start and finish your project in the same year you apply for the grant.

### **Respite care**

Your group or organisation may apply for funding for short-term or once-off respite care.

For example, if your organisation supports carers you might apply for funding for respite care or a break for carers or the people they are caring for.

You must use your respite care funding by 30 June the following year.

### **Projects we cannot fund**

We cannot fund your project if:

- it has major ongoing spending like staff, running costs or capital funding
- you already get funding from us or another state body for the same project
- you have a service agreement or grant aid agreement with us that includes the same service

### **How much you can apply for**

You can apply for between €300 and €10,000 in funding. You can apply for funding for more than 1 project.

### **How to Apply**

Deadline: 13 Feb 2026

You will need to gather financial information such as:

- project costs and quotations
- funding from the HSE, a state agency or public body in the last 3 years
- previous year accounts certified by your chairperson

At this stage you do not need to:

- complete a HSE vendor form
- agree to terms and conditions

Full details and guidelines available here: <https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/lottery-grants/national-lottery-grants/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Rise Community Fund

The RISE Community Fund supported by National Broadband Ireland and Granahan McCourt is aimed at addressing the rural urban digital divide. The fund will award €1,000 monthly grants to empower local businesses, community groups, farms and social enterprises to enhance their digital strategy. The Fund offers an immediate financial injection into your local community, boosting the digital ecosystem.

*Nontechnology related applications will not be accepted, please review T&C's for additional information.*

### Eligibility

All applicants must be over 18 years of age and operate within the monthly Community Fund Location area.

### Terms & Conditions

- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You have given full and truthful information, both verbal and written, at all stages of the application and selection process.
- Each applicant's submission must support the positive impact of technology on their project highlighting an identified digital need. Non-technology related applications will not be considered.
- RISE/NBI will hold the personal details which you submitted with your application form and will not share with third parties.
- Awardees will be requested to take part in publicity about the grants and allow NBI and RISE to publish the names and images of successful applicants.
- Awardees will be contacted by RISE to share updates on their project's progress and outcomes.
- Awardees will be expected to share the successful outcomes of their projects in supporting other organisations where relevant and sharing best practice.
- Due diligence is critical to RISE, organisations must be able to satisfy by supplying additional information upon request
- Annual turnover must not exceed €500,000
- By sending in your application, you accept these terms & conditions and [privacy statement](#).

## How to Apply

Deadline: 14 Feb 2026

Full details are available here: <https://riseglobalfoundation.com/programs/rise-community-fund/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## The Arts Council - Opera Projects and Production Award

The objective of the Opera Projects and Production Award is to support initiatives by professional practitioners in the development and presentation of opera at three distinct stages, encouraging the development of work of high artistic quality, and supporting developmental presentations and fully staged professional presentations of opera that engage with the public.

The award is intended to support the making and presentation of opera and to provide opportunities for artists in line with the Arts Council's published policy and strategy for opera (available to download from the publications section of the Arts Council website: <http://www.artscouncil.ie>).

In each of the three strands of the award, priority will be given to applications that demonstrate:

- A clear artistic vision and evidence that the proposed project is or is likely to be of high artistic quality
- Significant development opportunities for professional opera practitioners
- A clear alignment with the Council's policy and strategy priorities for opera.

Note: applications for touring of a previously fully produced production should be directed to the Arts Council's Touring Scheme.

Additional priorities for each of the three strands are also set out below.

### **Strand 1: Opera Projects: Project Development**

The purpose of the Project Development strand is to support artists and creative teams to develop new work (or, on occasion, to develop significant new presentation approaches to existing work). In this strand, while the work should ultimately be intended for public presentation, there is not a requirement to present the work to an audience.

Priority in this strand will also be given to proposals that:

- Focus on collaboratively developing new ideas through innovation and experimentation
- Deliver significant development opportunities to practitioners
- Provide evidence of a high quality artistic focus. The track record of the key artists will be taken into account.

## **Strand 2: Opera Projects: developmental presentation & smaller-scale full production**

The primary purposes of this strand are to:

- Facilitate the public presentation of professional work as part of a developmental creative process
- To provide evidence and impetus to support later opportunities for full production
- To support full production and presentation of small-scale work.

Projects in this strand must engage an audience appropriate for the nature of the work. Proposals may be for a full production, workshop performance or a concert performance of all or part of a work. Proposals can include, as appropriate, an audio or video recording as part of the project. Applicants are encouraged to consider reaching audiences by a variety of means.

Individual applicants to this strand must be able to clearly demonstrate that the project (including its public-presentation aspect) is feasible, ideally on the basis of a partnership commitment from an experienced producer such as a producing company, a theatre/venue, an established festival and/or another arts organisation.

Priority in this strand will be given to proposals that:

- Are high-quality artistic projects that demonstrate a strong and imaginative approach; relevant samples of work and the track record of the key artists involved will be taken into account
- Are presented to an appropriate public, with a clear plan for reaching that public
- Involve the development and presentation of new opera
- Involve the preparation and public presentation of new performing editions of historic Irish opera
- Demonstrate evidence of a capacity to realise the project successfully – e.g. by the contribution of value-adding partnerships and evidence of sound production planning and budgeting

## **Strand 3: Opera Production**

The purpose of the Opera Production strand is to support full professional productions of complete operas of either new or existing work of medium or larger scale of any genre, reaching and engaging with substantial live and other audiences, and providing

opportunities for professional operatic artists in the process. Applications that include well-designed elements to reach and develop new audiences for opera are encouraged.

In reaching audiences, the emphasis of the award is on encouraging a collaborative approach to high quality opera production based on value-adding partnerships between artists, producers and presenters.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the potential quality of the production and demonstrate concrete, credible strategies and plans to maximise public reach and engagement through live performance and other audience channels.

In considering proposals, the Arts Council will take into account a balance in the range and type of opera to be funded, and the extent to which proposals address areas of repertoire and public engagement of importance to the Arts Council as expressed in the Council's opera policy and strategy.

Priority in this strand will be given to proposals that:

- Are high-quality production proposals that demonstrate a strong and imaginative approach (relevant samples of work and the track record of the key artists involved will be taken into account)
- Evidence a clear commitment and well-grounded, detailed plans to maximise public reach and engagement, both in terms of live audiences and audiences reached through other means
- Provide opera repertoire that meets particular audience need as part of a balanced national opera provision
- Proposals that reach particular audiences as part of a balanced national spatial and demographic provision
- Demonstrate appropriate experience, sound planning and budgeting of opera production
- Show strong and credible plans for maximising production income from sources other than Council funding
- Use feasible, efficient models of production with appropriate value-adding partners.

1. Funding requests in Strand 3 that are less than €50,000 should instead apply to Strand 2.

## Eligibility

Applicants must be resident in the Republic of Ireland. However, we may accept applications from outside the Republic of Ireland. In this case, you must detail in your application form how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland. We would need to be satisfied with your explanation.

Organisations (such as producing venues) in receipt of Strategic Funding or Arts Grant Funding may apply, provided that any activity and related funding is demonstrated to be additional to, and separate from, the activities for which that organisation has received Strategic Funding or Arts Grant Funding.

Strategic Funding opera companies may, on occasion, play a positive role in supporting or partnering with OPP applicants. In such instances, the applicant and the supporting company must verify that the support offered and the proposed role of the funded organisation is additional to, and separate from, the activities for which that organisation has received Strategic Funding, and that the supporting opera producer will not publicly or otherwise present the work as its own production or co-production.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 17 Feb 2026 (opening) / 26 Mar 2026 (closing)

Full guidelines available here: <https://arts council.ie/funding-opportunities/operaprojects-and-production-award/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## The Arts Council - Deis Recording & Publication Award

The purpose of the Deis Recording and Publication Award is to provide support for:

- Traditional arts recording projects
- Recording projects involving collaboration between the traditional arts and other artforms
- Projects centred on the publication of work, such as tutors, tune collections and critical writing.

The maximum amount that you can apply for is €10,000.

This is a highly competitive award. The average award amount in 2025 was €6,316.

We give priority to projects that demonstrate:

- Attention to artistic quality
- Innovation
- Significant benefit to the traditional-arts community.

Potential projects could include:

- Projects that are of a significant archival nature or that pertain to the practice of a specific region or a particular artistic style
- Projects that help to make the music/song of an exceptional performer, composer or region available to a wider public
- Projects that have a particularly innovative theme or original artistic format
- Projects that form part of an individual's career development.

## Eligibility

This award is open to individuals, groups, bands and organisations.

We accept proposals from all areas in the traditional arts. Examples include:

- Traditional music
- Song
- Dance
- Oral artforms such as storytelling and *agallamh beirte*.

This award is open to applicants who are resident in the Republic of Ireland.

We may accept applications from applicants who are not resident in the Republic of Ireland. In this case, you must explain in section 2.3 of your application form how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland.

We'll determine the eligibility of your application based on your explanation.

Proposals that we receive from applicants funded by Strategic Funding or Arts Grants Funding must provide evidence that the project is additional to activities already supported by the Arts Council.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 19 Feb 2026

[Visit the Arts Council website.](#)

[back to top ↑](#)

# The Arts Council - Commissions Award (Music, Opera, Festivals)

The purpose of the Commissions Award is to enable the commissioning of new work from freelance artists.

The completed work may be suitable for presentation, exhibition, publication, performance, or distribution in its entirety upon completion. Alternatively, it may be presented as a work in progress, either live or online. Please refer to the specific guidance for each art form/arts area below, which outlines the priorities for the award in each category.

All awards are informed by [the Arts Council's ten-year strategy \(2016–2025\). Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland](#) and by individual artform/artspractice policies. The Arts Council's current 10-year strategy will continue in operation in 2026 during the development of a new strategy by the Arts Council.

You can find [policies for our individual artforms](#) on our website.

## Award strands

### Strand 1: Artform commissions

Commissions can be applied for under:

- Music OR
- Opera

This means that any applicant, whether an organisation or an individual, can apply to commission an artist's working within one (but not both) of these artform areas.

### Strand 2: Cross-arts-area commissions

To support arts organisations that operate across various art forms and commission work from artists in particular contexts, the award is open to organisations in the following categories:

- Festivals

In these cases, organisations can apply to commission an artist working in any artform, with the exception of festivals applying for a commission in Music or Opera, which should apply directly to those artforms in Strand 1. The application will be assessed primarily in relation to the context in which the commission is proposed. The Arts

Council's artform specialists will provide a secondary comment where their artform is integral to the proposal.

## Eligibility

- Organisations and individuals may apply for a Commissions Award to commission an artist or artists.
- For the purpose of this award, an organisation is not required to be constituted as a CLG or a DAC. However, the applicant organisation must be able to provide bank account and tax clearance details in the name of the organisation.
- Applications can only be made by the commissioner, and not by the artist(s) to be commissioned. The Applicant must provide the artist's ARN when filling in the application form.

If you are commissioning more than one artist or a group of artists as part of an application, you must provide an ARN for each of the artists that you list.

- Organisations based outside the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply if they are commissioning an Irish-born or Irish-resident artist. Similarly, Irish-based organisations may commission artists from outside Ireland – however, in such cases the commissioned work must be for the ultimate benefit of Irish audiences. You must explain in section 2.4 of your application form how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland.

We'll determine the eligibility of your application based on your explanation.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 19 Feb 2026

[Visit the Arts Council website for further guidance.](#)

[back to top ↑](#)

## Creative Ireland - Creative Communities on a Shared Island

Creative Communities is a partnership initiative between the Creative Ireland Programme and Ireland's 31 local authorities. It is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Creative Communities and local authorities use creativity to encourage wellbeing, social cohesion and economic success. Each local authority has a Culture and Creativity Team, led by a Director of Service. These teams bring together expertise from across the entire local authority and deliver the Creative Communities projects in their area.

The Creative Communities on a Shared Island Fund runs from mid-2026 to November 2028.

1. Strand 1: Total of €750,000. Awards of up to €250,000 each for a maximum of three large-scale proposals.
2. Strand 2: Total of €600,000. Awards of up to €150,000 to individual local authorities in Ireland.
3. Strand 3: Total of €250,000. Five awards of €50,000 for small scale-projects.

What sort of proposals is this Creative Communities on a Shared Island Fund looking for?

Your proposal should build on existing local authority networks or relationships or create new community collaborations led by the local authority. We want creative projects that grow cooperation and ways to work together between communities of place and/or practice.

We want proposals that:

- Connect people and connect communities.
- Use culture and creativity to work together in new ways.
- Give communities the opportunity to work with artists and experience different forms of creativity.
- Encourage active mobility across the island, including north-south and/or east-west (Ireland-Britain).
- Use arts and culture to help people and communities understand why working together is important for a shared future.

- Work together on shared island projects which will have positive benefits in the long term.

### **Who can apply for funding?**

Local authority Culture and Creativity Teams in Ireland in partnership with local or national community, cultural and creative organisations working with north-south and/or east-west (Ireland-Britain) partners.

### **How to Apply**

Deadline: 27 Feb 2026 @ 1pm

Full guidelines and application details available here:

<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-grant-call-2025/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Creative Ireland - Creative Health & Wellbeing

### **Strand A: Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland collaboration runs from mid-2026 to end 2027**

- Creative Ireland has funding in 2026–27 for partnerships of at least two local authorities (aligned with Regional Health Authority) to deliver arts and health projects in the community and HSE community and hospital settings.
- The lead applicant must be a local authority. You will work with HSE and local or national arts, cultural or creative organisations to deliver these projects.
- Projects should be developed and delivered by the Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland teams in local authorities. This team will work with cultural and creative partners and (if appropriate) with the relevant HSE Health Promotion and Improvement Officers, HSE Health and Wellbeing teams, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Officers or other relevant officers, teams or networks, such as Age Friendly Ireland.

### **Strand B: Shared Island runs from mid-2026 to end 2028**

- The lead applicant must be a local authority in Ireland.

#### **Why is Creative Ireland running this fund?**

Research shows that taking part in creativity and cultural activities and projects has a major positive impact on health and wellbeing. We work with the Department of Health (Healthy Ireland), the HSE and the Arts Council to carry out the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Arts & Health. We do this by funding projects that support and carry out health strategies such as:

- The Healthy Ireland Framework
- Pathways to Wellbeing: The National Mental Health Promotion Plan
- Stronger Together: The HSE Mental Health Promotion Plan 2022–27
- National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022–27
- The National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025–30.

(Please note that the above is not an exhaustive list.)

#### **What is Healthy Ireland?**

Healthy Ireland is the government initiative aimed at improving people's health and wellbeing. It encourages healthy lifestyle behaviours and healthier environments. It aims to create an Irish society where everyone can enjoy good physical and mental health, and where wellbeing is valued and supported. Healthy Ireland works to:

- Focus on life-long wellbeing and prevention of illness.
- Reduce health inequalities.
- Address the places in which health and wellbeing is impacted.
- Help people and communities to better look after their own health and wellbeing.

Healthy Ireland recognises that health is experienced by people as part of everyday life. It takes a settings approach to health promotion and disease prevention by targeting the places where people live, work, and play. We work in partnership with Healthy Ireland to use creative and cultural activity as a positive health behaviour.

### **What is the Shared Island initiative?**

The Good Friday Agreement set up new ways to work together for the good of everyone on the island. The Shared Island initiative comes from the Good Friday Agreement. It encourages people and communities to connect and get to know each other's traditions and culture.

The Shared Island Creative Ireland initiative encourages people to be creative. It aims to:

- Connect people and connect communities.
- Use culture and creativity to promote wellbeing, social connection, and local economic development.
- Give communities all over Ireland the opportunity to work with artists and experience different forms of creativity.
- Use arts and culture to help people understand why working together is important for Ireland's shared future.
- Work together on projects which will have positive benefits in the long term.

### **What sort of proposals is this Fund looking for?**

Strand A projects should be designed to run until the end of 2027.

Strand B projects should run no later than the end of 2028.

We are looking for proposals for creative arts and health projects that:

- Support the objectives of the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Arts & Health; the Healthy Ireland Framework; and at least one major health strategy or plan. (The earlier answer to Why is Creative Ireland running this fund? has some examples of such plans.) Shared Island proposals should also use Northern Ireland or All-Island strategies or plans.
- Where possible, use the Irish Social Prescribing services to support access and help people take part. Find contact details for HSEfunded social prescribers at: <https://www.allirelandsocialprescribing.ie/service-list-bycounty>

### **Can co-funded projects apply?**

Yes. We welcome projects co-funded through other public funds, philanthropy or private sector contribution. If you are awaiting funds from an alternative source, please include this information and the timeframe when you expect to be notified of the outcome, as it may affect your project timeline and budget requirements.

*The Lead Applicant must be a local authority.*

### **What funding is available?**

#### **Strand A: Creative Ireland/Healthy Ireland collaborations**

Up to €70,000 per project is available in 2026. Subject to budgetary availability, we hope to have a similar level of funding available in 2027.

An application can be made by a partnership between local authorities aligned with the new HSE Health Regions. You must have at least two local authorities in each partnership (see Appendix I), except in Dublin and Cork where the local authorities are larger than other areas. Proposals between two local authorities should not map across two or more HSE Regions.

One local authority must be identified as the lead partner. Local authorities may be a partner in more than one project.

#### **Strand B: Shared Island Up to €90,000 per project is available for 2026.**

Subject to budgetary availability, we hope to have a similar level of funding available in 2027. Remember to budget for travel and accommodation costs relating to your project at application stage. An application can be made by a local authority in the Republic of Ireland for a creative project to be delivered in collaboration with an organisation (or organisations) based in Northern Ireland.

Local authorities should work with national cultural and creative organisations to deliver these projects.

The project should involve the Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland teams in these local authorities, working (as appropriate), in cooperation with the relevant HSE Health & Wellbeing Officers, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Officer, and other relevant officers, teams or networks such as Age Friendly Ireland and relevant counterparts in Northern Ireland.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 27 Feb 2026 @ 1pm

Full guidelines and application details available here:

<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-grant-call-2025/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Creative Ireland - Creative Youth Nurture Fund

### **Strand A: Nurture Fund runs from mid-2026 to end 2027.**

Strand A: Nurture Fund is for projects delivered in Ireland by a partner based in Ireland. €800k in funding is available in 2026–2027 to deliver approximately eight projects.

The maximum funding is €100,000 per project.

### **Strand B: Nurture Fund Shared Island runs from mid-2026 to end 2028.**

Strand B: Nurture Fund Shared Island is for Shared Ireland projects. One partner must be based in Ireland, and one in Northern Ireland. €1.5m in funding is available in 2026–2028 to deliver up to six projects.

The maximum funding is €250,000 per project.

What is the Shared Island Creative Ireland initiative?

The Shared Island Creative Ireland initiative encourages people to be creative. It aims to:

- Connect people and connect communities.
- Use culture and creativity to promote wellbeing, social connection, and local economic development.
- Give communities all over Ireland the opportunity to work with artists and experience different forms of creativity.
- Use arts and culture to help people understand why working together is important for Ireland's shared future.
- Work together on projects which will have positive benefits in the long term.

### **What do we mean by 'creativity'?**

Types of creativity may include:

- Animation
- Architecture
- Augmented/Virtual/Mixed Reality
- Circus
- Coding

- Comedy
- Cooking
- Creative Digital Technology
- Creative Writing
- Cultural Heritage
- Dance (all types)
- Digital Art
- Digital Games
- Fashion
- Film
- Irish Language Arts
- Literature
- Multidisciplinary Arts
- Music (all genres)
- Participatory Arts  
Podcasting
- Street Arts and Spectacle
- Theatre
- Traditional Arts
- Visual Arts
- Storytelling.

### **What sort of projects is this Creative Youth Nurture Fund looking for?**

This single new scheme covers the island of Ireland in two strands:

Strand A Nurture Fund: 2026–2027 is for projects in Ireland.

Strand B Nurture Fund: Shared Island 2026–2028 is for Shared Island projects. Funding for Strand B comes from the Shared Island initiative.

- We are looking for creative and cultural projects that take place outside of the school setting and are rooted in the local community.
- Projects should have a creative approach and be shaped by active involvement of children and young people.
- Funding can be for new projects or to expand an existing project or pilot.
- We encourage different organisations to work together to build strong project teams to deliver high quality projects.
- Your application must have a youth-led approach. It is very important that young people make as many decisions as possible in the design of the project.
- The National Framework for Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making (see Appendix 2), will help you identify, develop and engage in a creative project.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 27 Feb 2026 @ 1pm

Full guidelines and application details available here:

<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-grant-call-2025/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Local Enhancement Programme 2026

A new €7 million Local Enhancement Programme has been launched to support small community groups across Ireland in 2026. The funding will provide capital assistance for local organisations, with a focus on disadvantaged rural and urban areas. Eligible groups will be able to apply for support with facility upgrades, accessibility improvements, energy-efficiency measures and essential equipment.

The programme will be delivered through Local Community Development Committees nationwide. It forms part of the government's broader strategy to strengthen local infrastructure and encourage community participation, particularly among marginalised and under-represented groups.

This funding will provide capital supports that are essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas.

There will be a particular focus on small capital works/improvements, and the purchase of equipment for community use. The funding may be used for, but is not limited to; improving access for persons with a disability; enhancing community participation for disadvantaged and marginalised groups, and improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, to improve and enhance community facilities for all. Funding will be available to a diverse range of community groups including, but not limited to, community centres, parish halls and local voluntary groups.

### **LEP 2026 Funding allocation for each Local Authority area**

Local Authority	Funding provided
Carlow	€156,072.58
Cavan	€164,165.44
Clare	€181,061.31
Cork City	€284,886.64
Cork County	€277,633.01
Donegal	€303,465.26

Dublin City	€656,750.42
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€203,922.40
Fingal	€268,827.22
Galway City	€141,688.31
Galway County	€213,600.85
Kerry	€211,006.90
Kildare	€244,335.64
Kilkenny	€170,519.37
Laois	€173,943.19
Leitrim	€119,043.40
Limerick	€278,643.81
Longford	€152,826.93
Louth	€239,207.33
Mayo	€217,741.96
Meath	€222,535.73
Monaghan	€148,262.64
Offaly	€186,553.43
Roscommon	€153,829.73
Sligo	€144,392.98
South Dublin	€400,204.48
Tipperary	€240,984.39
Waterford	€219,286.41
Westmeath	€172,338.03
Wexford	€253,226.56

Wicklow	€199,043.66
	€7,000,000.00

## How to Apply

Learn more here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-rural-and-community-development-and-the-gaeltacht/press-releases/ministers-calleary-and-buttimer-announce-new-7-million-local-enhancement-programme-2026/>

Applications for funding can be made to your relevant County Council or LCDC.

Contact details for County Councils are available [here](#).

Contact details for LCDCs are available at this [address](#).

***Local deadlines may vary - please check your local authority directly.***

[back to top ↑](#)

## The Arts Council - Young Ensembles Scheme

The Arts Council is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. The Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to society.

The primary purpose of the Young Ensembles Scheme is to support groups of young people between the ages of ten and twenty-four to create or actively engage with ambitious and original work in any artform (e.g. circus, street performance, spectacle, dance, digital media, film, music, multidisciplinary arts, theatre, literature, visual arts, architecture or any combination of the above). Groups/ensembles must be made up of three or more members.

The Young Ensembles Scheme has two strands. You should choose the strand that is most suitable for your ensemble and for your proposal. You may only apply to one strand.

### **Strand 1**

This strand is for ensembles that wish to undertake a process or project that will develop the practice and experience of the young people involved. You may apply for up to €10,000. Applicants may be new or established ensembles and must demonstrate their capacity to develop and deliver a high-quality artistic process.

### **Strand 2**

This strand is for ensembles that wish to undertake a larger-scale process or project that develops the work of the ensemble and which will cost more than €10,000 and no more than €25,000. Applicants must be established ensembles with a track record of delivering high-quality artistic processes or projects. Applicants must make clear why a larger budget than is available under Strand 1 is required.

For both strands, priority will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- Young people have played a role in developing the proposal, and will play a central role in shaping, delivering, documenting and evaluating the project.
- The proposal will ensure a high-quality artistic process that is ambitious and original, provides a challenging and rewarding experience for the participants, and enables them to develop their artistic skills.
- The proposal will ensure young people have ownership of the work they undertake. This may mean they actively engage in the process of devising, creating, composing or designing an original piece of work or artistic initiative,

or that they engage in a process of exploring, interpreting or reimagining a given script/composition/artistic work or series of works in a way that enables them to make it their own.

- The proposal is youth-led, or will actively support and develop youth leadership in the arts.
- The ensemble will benefit from the expertise, support or mentorship of professional artists or arts organisations.
- The proposal includes a presentation or sharing of work or work in progress. This may be small in scale (e.g. for participants and families) or for a wider audience.
- The proposal includes evidence of the ensemble's artistic activities or work produced to date, and how funding will enable the participants to develop their experience further. (In the case of a new ensemble, evidence of other relevant projects in which the young people or artistic mentors have been involved should be demonstrated.)

The Arts Council welcomes in particular:

- Initiatives that enable young people from diverse backgrounds to collaborate in a high-quality artistic process
- Initiatives that enable young people with disabilities to engage in a high-quality artistic process.

For more information, see the Arts Council's [Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#)

## How to Apply

Deadline: 27 Feb 2026

Please visit the Arts Council website for full application details:

<https://arts council.ie/funding-opportunities/young-ensembles-scheme/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Christian Brothers Edmund Rice Trust Fund

To mark the beatification of their founder in 1996, the Christian Brothers in Ireland established a Trust Fund to respond, in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, to the challenges facing Christianity in the modern world. The fund is managed by a Board of Trustees in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Trust. The Trust is a registered charity.

*The annual income from the fund is available to promote the objectives of the Trust. These objectives include helping individuals and groups in the pursuit of projects which are in accordance with the objectives of the Trust and which are deemed worthy by the Trustees.*

Among the projects it may assist are:

- The alleviation of poverty
- The training of teachers, parents, youth leaders or others engaged in the provision of education, leadership or development
- Research into educational disadvantage, school effectiveness, youth leadership and religious development of young people
- Educational facilities

### APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited each year between January 1st and February 28th. Applications received after the closing date of February 28th are not considered.

Applications must be presented on the official application form available from the Secretary at the address below.

Applicants are requested to give serious consideration to the enclosed Rules Governing Funding, giving special attention to Rules 9,10 and 11.

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The Trustees meet in May each year to review applications received by the Trust. The applicants are advised of the Trustees decision in June. Successful applicants will receive funding in September and the funds received are to be applied from that September to June of the following year. Exceptions may be approved when circumstances are deemed deserving.

### REPORTS

An Annual Report form, available from the Trust, should be completed and submitted to the Trustees for their information in June each year for funding received in the previous year

As part of this report, a detailed breakdown of how the funding was used should include the different items of expenditure, together with invoices and receipts, the total expenditure, and the balance in hand.

## **RULES GOVERNING FUNDING**

1. Projects must be deemed by the Trustees to conform fully to the objectives of the Trust.
2. The Trust has strict a policy whereby it will only provide funding to groups/organisations with a child and vulnerable adult safeguarding policy. The Trust will not consider applications from any group/organisation which does not have such a policy in place.
3. The decision of the Trustees, regarding funding for any project, shall be final.
4. Funding from the Trust will be made available in the form of a donation which does not have to be repaid. However, if for any reason, after receipt of funding from the Trust, the implementation of the project becomes impossible, the Trustees shall be made aware of this immediately and they may require the return of whatever portion of the donation to the project that remains unexpended.
5. Any change in the details of the project, as submitted to the Trustees, must be made known to them immediately.
6. The Trustees must be informed immediately if funds, other than those already specified in the original application, later become available to finance the complete project or any section of it. This may have implications for ongoing funding.
7. The exact amount of funding received from the Trust must be acknowledged immediately to the Trustees. Where foreign exchange is involved, the acknowledgement must state (1) the exact amount received, in the currency in which it is received and (2) the equivalent in the local currency.
8. A payment schedule will be decided by the Trustees.
9. The Trustees require annual reports in June each year for funding received in the previous year. Failure to submit year end reports will impact the consideration of future funding applications.

10. The financial section of the year-end report should detail the financial aspects of the project, including all income and expenditure. All project-related records and documents, including receipts for expenditure, invoices, vouchers and bank statements, must be retained for a minimum period of seven years, in accordance with standard accounting practice
11. The Trustees have the right, at their discretion, to nominate a representative to visit the project in order to check progress and/or substantiate financial reports and records.
12. If applicants do not object, the Trustees may use information relating to the project in any statements by them concerning the operation of the Trust.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 28 Feb 2026

Download the latest application form [here](#).

[back to top ↑](#)

## World Habitat Awards

The World Habitat Awards competition has been run by World Habitat in partnership with UN-Habitat since 1985. In that time some of the world's most remarkable and innovative housing projects have received international recognition for their work. This year we will be presenting Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards to the most outstanding projects and programmes.

Each **Gold** Award-winning project receives:

- £10,000 in prize money
- A trophy in recognition of their work to develop and deliver good practice in housing
- An in-person trophy presentation event at an international housing event
- An online celebration event and announcement amplifying their work
- Year-long collaboration support from World Habitat, including financial resourcing
- Membership of the [World Habitat Awards Network](#).

Each **Silver** and **Bronze** Award-winning project receives:

- Year-long collaboration support from World Habitat, including financial resourcing
- An online celebration event and announcement amplifying their work
- Membership of the [World Habitat Awards Network](#).

## Eligibility

We want to hear about projects from around the world that:

- Focus on affordable and adequate housing;
- Have taken action to address the climate emergency;
- Are currently in progress or were completed within the last ten years;
- Actively promote diversity, equality and inclusion; and
- Have been designed and/or delivered in close collaboration with residents and the local community.

Please note that projects at the design, prototype, or planning stage, or those completed more than ten years ago, will not be considered.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 4 Mar 2026

Full guidelines and application details available here: <https://world-habitat.org/awards2027/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund 2026

The 2026 ESB Wind Farm Community Funds are now open for applications.

The funds are available to not-for-profit community and voluntary organisations for projects which are based in the vicinity of one of our wind farms. These include, but are not limited to;

- Registered charities.
- Community development groups.
- Tidy town committees.
- Sports, and recreation clubs.
- Primary, and secondary schools.

The funds support projects which focus on the following themes:

- Education and skills
- Health, safety and well-being
- Environment and habitat conservation
- Energy efficiency and sustainability
- Culture and heritage
- Recreation, sport and social inclusion
- Tourism.

### **ESB owned Wind Farms:**

<b>Wind Farm Name</b>	<b>Suggested Award Value*</b>	<b>AOB Radius (2026)</b>	<b>Fund Available</b>
Black Banks Wind Farm, Co. Leitrim	€2,000	10Km	€8,925
Cappawhite Wind Farm, Co. Tipperary	€5,000	10Km	€82,183.73
Carnsore Wind Farm, Co. Wexford	€1,000	10Km	€10,412.50
Carrane Hill Wind Farm, Co. Sligo	€1,000	10Km	€2,975

Castlepook, County Cork	€5,000	10Km	€52,687.94
Derrybrien Wind Farm, Co. Galway	€5,000	10Km	€52,062.50
Garvagh Glebe Wind Farm, Co. Leitrim	€3,000	10Km	€22,750
Grouselodge Wind Farm, Co. Limerick	€2,000	10Km	€13,125
Grousemount Wind Farm, Co. Kerry	€3,000 +	10km**	€178,798.95
Moneypoint Wind Farm, Co. Clare	€3,000	10Km	€27,675.34
Mount Eagle Wind Farm, Co. Kerry	€1,000	10Km	€5,950
Tullynahaw Wind Farm, Co. Roscommon	€2,000	10Km	€19,250
Woodhouse, Co. Waterford	€2,000	10Km	€17,500
Carrickatane Wind Farm, Co. Londonderry	£2,500	7km	£19,687.50
Crockagarran Wind Farm, Co. Tyrone	£2,000	10km	£15,312.50
Curryfree Wind Farm, Co. Londonderry	£2,000	7km	£13,125
Crockdun Wind Farm, Co. Tyrone	£2,000	10km	£16,406.25
Eglish Wind Farm, Co. Londonderry	£2,500	7km	£19,687.50

### **Co-owned Wind Farms:**

<b>Wind Farm Name</b>	<b>Suggested Award Value* (2026)</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<b>Fund Available</b>
		<b>Radius (2026)</b>	
Crockahenny Wind Farm, Co. Donegal (ESB & Enercon)	€1,000	10Km	€4,969
Mountain Lodge Wind Farm, County Cavan (ESB and Galetech Energy)	€2,000	10Km	€18,891.25
Raheenleagh Wind Farm, County Wicklow (ESB & Greencoat Renewables)	€5,000	10Km	€56,977.64

### **How to Apply**

Deadline: 6 Mar 2026

Please visit the Fund website for full guidelines and application details: <https://windfarmcommunityfunds.ie/application-form/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Foras na Gaeilge - Summer Camp Scheme 2026

Foras na Gaeilge is providing funding for appropriate Summer Camps through Irish for young people (3 to 18 years of age):

- which aim to strengthen the Irish language through a mix of activities;
- that are not residential camps;
- which will last 5 days;
- which will run between 22 June and 28 August 2026;
- which will last at least 4.5 hours each day.

This is a nonprofit scheme to keep the camp fees low for the young people.

Grants are provided out of public funding, and Foras na Gaeilge has statutory duties to ensure value for money for 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, schools, youth organisations and community groups

### How to Apply

The application form and supporting documents must be submitted by email to [oideachas@forasnagaeilge.ie](mailto:oideachas@forasnagaeilge.ie) before the deadline.

Deadline: 9 Mar 2026

<https://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/funding-schemes/summer-camp-scheme/?lang=en>

[back to top ↑](#)

# 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: 16 Mar 2026 (large grants)

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

[back to top ↑](#)

# CESCA Equality & Social Inclusion Small Grants Scheme 2026

CESCA (Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliances) is delighted to launch its Grassroots Grants Scheme 2026, with huge thanks to the HSE Social Inclusion Services in Cork for supporting us with this initiative. Our intention with this one-off small grant is to support initiatives that are working to bring communities together, to promote and progress equality and social justice in Cork City.

## Application guidance

- Joint applications with one or more other organisations or groups are particularly welcomed and encouraged.
- We again will give priority to applications focused on tackling climate change and/or raising awareness of climate justice. Programs seeking to address socio-economic deprivation will also be prioritized, however we welcome applications seeking to address wider inequalities and injustices.
- It is intended to announce successful applicants soon after the closing date.
- The successful programme must be based in Cork City or support communities specifically living in or accessing services in Cork City.
- Grants of between €250- €1000 will be provided on a one-off basis. We have been allocated a total of €5,000 for this year's Grassroots Grant.
- CESCA members cannot apply as an individual organisation, but applications will be considered if in partnership with other non-CESCA members.
- Applicants must be a not-for-profit organisation or a Company Limited by Guarantee, delivering community-based programs.
- The CESCA Executive in partnership with the wider membership will make the final decision on successful applications based on the criteria outlined.
- Where a CESCA member has jointly applied for funding with another organisation, they will be precluded from the decision-making process regarding the grant recipients.
- The program must be completed within a one-year timeframe from the date of allocation of the grant.
- Where programs are already availing of grants or supports to complete their programs of work, please state where and why additional funds are required.

- An end of program report will be required as a means of ensuring the stated aims were achieved and if not, the reasons for same.
- CESCA reserve the right to request the repayment of funds in situations where the stated aims of a program have not been sufficiently met or evidenced.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 20 Mar 2026

If you have any queries please contact Sarah Harrington CESCA Coordinator, [cesca.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:cesca.coordinator@gmail.com)

Full details available here: <https://www.cesca.ie/cesca-grassroots-grant-scheme-2026/>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Circle K - Cash for Clubs

As proud title sponsor of the FAI Club Mark programme, we're committed to supporting grassroots football in communities right across Ireland. To date, we've already invested over €130,000 across 20 clubs – and we're just getting started!

Now, we're thrilled to launch our newest Cash for Clubs campaign – we are back for our third year supporting grassroots clubs and we've got more prizes for clubs to win.

This year, over 20 clubs nationwide will win amazing prizes, from brand new kits to €10,000 in cash. Here's how you and your club can get involved:

### How It Works

#### 1. [Download the Circle K App](#)

Join as a Circle K Extra member and opt into *Cash for Clubs* directly from the app's homepage.

#### 2. Pick Your Club

Create your username and select the club you want to support. You can change which team you want to support throughout the campaign.

#### 3. Earn Points in Two Ways

- In-Store Scans

Scan your Circle K app every time you shop:

- €0.01 – €29.99 spend = 250 points
- €30 – €49.99 spend = 1,000 points
- €50+ spend = 1,500 points

*A maximum of 3 scans per day will be valid.*

- Play the Daily Game

Open the Circle K app every day to play and collect extra points for you and your club.

### Circle K Training Center

Each day, members can boost their score by playing football-inspired games on the Circle K app. The points you earn go towards your personal total and your club's leaderboard position.

Here's what's waiting for you:

- Skill Shot Circuit – Dribble the ball between cones and take your shot on goal. Avoid the cones and score big.
- Penalty Precision – Test your nerves in a 3-round penalty shootout. Each round gets tougher as you aim for the target.
- Corner Kick Control – Deliver the perfect cross and set up your teammate to score a header. Watch out — the wind could change everything!
- Goalkeeper Reaction – Step into goal and keep the ball out of the net. The shots come faster and faster, so stay sharp to rack up points.

Keep your eyes out for the bonus target that will appear randomly in a game where you can get an extra 500 points to your total score.

## The Prizes

- Monthly Wins  
At the end of each month, the top 3 clubs will win full sets of kits.
- Weekly Wins  
Each week, the Circle K Extra member with the most points will bag €500 cash.
- The Grand Finale – March
  - 1st Place: €10,000 cash
  - 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Places: €5,000 each
  - 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Places: 3 sets of kits each
  - 11th Place: VIP Experience to attend a Men's National Team training Session

And remember — every single point counts right until the end. Even if your club isn't in the lead, you're still in with a chance thanks to our random draw in March.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 29 Mar 2026

Download the Circle K App, opt into Cash for Clubs, and start earning points.

Learn more here: <https://www.circlek.ie/2025-news/cash-for-clubs>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Mohamed bin Zayed - Species Conservation Fund

The Fund intends to be as flexible and accommodating as possible when reviewing applications, and to take into account as many different factors as is reasonable when assessing the merit of a suggested project. To support this and to try to streamline the application process, the review process is kept comparatively simple.

However, the Fund does receive many more applications for support than grants could possibly be provided, so please find below some criteria and guidelines which would be useful to bear in mind when submitting an application.

**Language:** Applications must be submitted in English.

**Currency:** Budgets must be submitted in US Dollars.

**Maximum Grant:** The Fund maximum grant size is \$25,000, and any application asking for more than this from the Fund will be rejected. The total budget of a project can be higher if there are other sources of funding, but the Fund will not award more than \$25,000.

**Conservation status:** The Fund was established to support species conservation work, and so if your project is not about an endangered species it is probably not worth your while submitting an application.

The Fund will use the IUCN Redlist ([www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)) as the primary guide to the conservation status of a given species, although documented variations for sub-species, distinct populations and sub-populations will be taken into account. For those species not assessed through the IUCN Redlist we welcome other methods of assessment and the submission of quantitative data to confirm a species status. Generally the Fund gives priority to those species facing a high threat of extinction (with an emphasis on Endangered and Critically Endangered species), as well as those which are listed as Data Deficient or unlisted but are suspected as highly threatened. Please ensure that the conservation status mentioned in the application is correct and cross-referenced to a website or publication. It might be of use to consult with the relevant IUCN/SSC Specialist Group if you are in doubt or would like some guidance.

Please note that applications with clearly incorrect conservation status and no justification will **NOT** be considered for funding.

**Content:** Text provided in an application should be kept concise and clear, with clearly stated quantitative goals, aims and methods. When writing an application, please bear in mind that there is only so much text which the Advisory Board and the Fund's board of directors are capable of reading. Priority will be given to those projects that support the professional development of young conservationists.

*In situ* conservation: Generally, the Fund is primarily interested in providing support to *in situ* conservation work in the field (such as survey work and data gathering, direct action, recovery management, training and the like), focusing on the species in its natural habitat. However, the importance of *ex situ* work (genetic analysis, workshops, *ex situ* populations etc) is also recognised, and so a few grants may be given to projects which focus on *ex situ* conservation work in certain circumstances.

**Core costs:** The Fund will not award a grant simply to cover the core running costs of an organisation or administrative overheads, and yet does recognise that sometimes support salaries, stipends, per diems and project related living costs are a vital part of *in situ* conservation work, as part of a conservation project.

**Species:** Generally the Fund would prefer to support projects which focus on a single species, but it also recognises that in some geographic and taxonomic circumstances it makes more sense to group a number of species.

**Grant amount:** The Fund will **not** provide a grant of more than \$25,000.

**Grants for continuation:** The Fund is happy to provide continuation support for a project which had previously been supported, which is now completed and for which the Fund has received all required reporting by the time of the respective submission deadline.

**External review:** In some cases the Advisory Board and/or the Fund's board of directors may ask for an application to be passed on for additional review, which may add to the response time.

**Online:** Only applications submitted through the Fund's online, web-based system will be considered. Supporting documents can be sent as email attachments, but the application itself must be online.

## How to Apply

Deadline: 31 Mar 2026

[Visit the Fund website](#) to learn more before submitting an online application.

[back to top ↑](#)

## Music Network - Music Capital Scheme Piano Award

Applications are now open for the Music Capital Scheme Piano Award to support the purchase/refurbishment of concert standard grand pianos by arts venues and music presenters.

The Music Capital Scheme is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport provides funding for musical instruments.

We are seeking applications from organisations that provide a year-round high quality music programme, support the work of professional musicians (e.g. professional development opportunities such as artist residencies, masterclasses etc.), and have a strong track record in audience and community engagement.

### **Award details:**

The total funding available for the current round of The Music Capital Scheme Piano Award is €300,000.

Pianos may be new or second-hand, and applicants may apply for:

- up to 75% of the cost of purchasing a concert standard grand piano. The scheme welcomes applications relating to all high-quality brands (for example Steinway, Yamaha, Kawai and similar), both new and second-hand. Any refurbishment costs required to bring a second-hand instrument up to concert standard can be included in addition to the instrument purchase price.

Or

- up to 70% of the cost of refurbishing a grand piano to bring it up to concert standard, unless the refurbishment cost is €15,000 or less, in which case the percentage will reduce to 50%.

### **Eligibility**

#### **Who can apply:**

- Arts venues
- Music presenters programming in a dedicated performance space.

Note: Applications may be submitted in partnership with a Local Authority where the venue or presenter is the lead partner. Individuals are **not** eligible to apply for this award.

#### **Applicants must:**

- be based in the Republic of Ireland
- not currently have a concert standard grand piano in performance condition in situ
- be managed at a professional level and uphold best practice in relation to their governance and operations
- be able to demonstrate that they provide **all** of the following:
  - concert programming of the highest professional standard
  - a year round music programme for audiences
  - support for professional musicians in their work e.g. professional development opportunities such as artist residencies, masterclasses etc. (current and future plans will be taken into consideration)
- have a strong track record of engagement with their local community.

Music Network is committed to equity and inclusion and welcomes applications from arts venues and music presenters within culturally diverse communities. Music Network encourages prospective applicants with disabilities or access requirements who wish to submit an application on behalf of their venue or organisation to make contact with us as early as possible so that every effort to provide reasonable accommodation can be made

## How to Apply

Deadline: 2 Apr 2026

Full details available here: <https://www.musicnetwork.ie/whats-on/the-music-network-piano-award>

[back to top ↑](#)

## Additional Resources

Nonprofits seeking fundraising advice and guidance can avail of two additional resources:

### 1. Fundraising Guidance Library

- [Fundraising Essentials](#)
- [Applying to Grant Makers](#)
- [Fundraising From The Public](#)
- [European Funding](#)

### 2. Fundraising Helpdesk

Can't find an answer to your fundraising question in the above articles? Then get in touch with The Wheel's Fundraising Helpdesk now.

Email as much detail as possible to: [paul@wheel.ie](mailto:paul@wheel.ie) and we'll get back to you soon.

[www.wheel.ie](http://www.wheel.ie)

[back to top ↑](#)