



Heart of the Community Fund 2025 | FAQs

Round 1: Northern Ireland

At The Ireland Funds, we are committed to empowering non-profit organisations that make a meaningful impact in their communities. In 2025, we are excited to introduce a new structure for the Heart of the Community Fund, with **two distinct rounds** tailored to support organisations in **Northern Ireland** followed by the **Republic of Ireland**. This approach allows us to better address the needs of each region and maximise the positive outcomes of our funding.

The **first round** will support organisations in **Northern Ireland** and opens [Thursday, 29 May](#). The **second grant round** will support organisations in the **Republic of Ireland** and will open in **Autumn 2025**. Details of the second round will be announced later this year.

- **What is the application period?**

The Heart of the Community Fund 2025 will accept applications from organisations in Northern Ireland online from [Thursday, 29 May until Friday, 27 June](#). Late applications will not be accepted.

- **What awards are offered by the Heart of the Community Fund in 2025?**

The Heart of the Community Fund 2025 will provide grants between £5,000 – £20,000 to non-profit organisations with an annual turnover of less than £3,000,000.

The Ireland Funds Grants Team will assess your application and determine the most suitable amount to award your organisation within the range available.

At least \$500,000 will be distributed through this grant round.

- **How do I apply?**

Apply online through our portal [here](#) from Thursday, 29 May until Friday, 27 June.

- **Do you accept applications from unincorporated groups/associations?**

No, Heart of the Community Fund is not open to unincorporated associations or community groups that do not have any legal structure.

The organisation must be a registered charity or CIC or have applied to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. For further details please visit The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

- **Can an organisation apply if they are registered in the Republic of Ireland?**

Organisations whose work takes place in Northern Ireland but who are based in the Republic of Ireland can apply once their organisation is eligible under the Ireland Funds criteria. **The services provided must take place in Northern Ireland.**

- **Can an organisation apply if we are relatively new and don't have a full set of accounts?**

For a new organisation we can use your bank statement in lieu of a financial statement but, in that case, you would need to submit an unredacted bank statement. We would also ask that you submit a cashflow prediction for the year ahead, tracking income and expenditure.

- **Can we apply as a regional/affiliate partner/semi-independent unit of a larger organisation?**

We will only accept one application per organisation. If you are a regional/affiliate partner/semi-independent unit of a larger organisation, it is the responsibility of the organisation to ensure that only one application is submitted.

You will need to send management accounts for your unit to assist with our assessment. Please note, a maximum of one smaller unit will be approved per large organisation.

- **Do you require supporting documents to be submitted?**

Yes. We require a governing document for your organisation, most recent financial statements, and bank statement header.

- **What do you require for due diligence reviews on organisations?**

Due diligence is critical for The Ireland Funds. To be eligible, organisations must be a registered charity unless exempted and;

1. Must have:

- a. Governing Document (i.e. Memorandum & Articles of Association; Trust Deed; Constitution).
- b. Financial Statements (Audited or Unaudited Accounts are equally accepted).

2. Must have a governing document that contains the following clauses:

a. Income and Property:

- i. Outlining the allocation of any income to the sole purpose of pursuing the organisations purpose and objects.
- ii. Ensuring that any Directors will not be remunerated by salary or fees.

b. Winding Up/Dissolution:

- i. Providing security for income/funds should the organization cease operations. Funds are guaranteed to be transferred to an organisation with a similar charitable purpose.

c. Limited Liability:

- i. Formal recognition that the company is limited by guarantee, as opposed to shares, and establishes that dividends etc. will not be afforded due to the organisation's status as a CLG.

- **What activities are not funded by the Heart of the Community Fund 2025?**

- The Heart of the Community Fund 2025 does not fund the following:
 - Individuals, bursaries, or scholarships
 - Medical expenses
 - Animal welfare activities
 - Commemorative structures
 - Advancement of religion/faith or religious beliefs
 - Political activities and promotion of individual political candidates

- **Does my application have to be submitted electronically?**

Yes all applications must be submitted electronically through our online grants portal which can be found here: irelandfunds.org/grants/

We do not accept applications via post or email.

- **Will I receive confirmation that my application has been received?**

Yes you will receive an email confirming The Ireland Funds has received your submitted application.

- **My application was rejected. Can I reapply and when can I reapply?**

Organisations can only submit one application per grant round. You can apply for future grant rounds as long as your organisation fits the criteria.

- **How soon will I know if I am successful?**

We aim to notify all applicants of the outcome by the end of July, but the exact date will depend on the volume of applications received.

Please ensure you have marked grantsinfo@irelandfunds.org as a 'safe sender' to ensure you receive the notification email into your inbox.

- **How is the grant paid?**

Grants are paid through Electronic Funds Transfer.

- **How long do we have to spend the money?**

You must spend your grant within the timeframe stated in the Grant Acceptance Contract which will be 12 months from date of notification. However, the Impact Report for Heart of the Community Fund 2025 is due nine months from the date of notification so the majority of the funds should be spent by this deadline to ensure accurate reporting.