

# Equality for All in Thriving Communities

STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

# Our Purpose

## A PHILANTHROPIC HUB FOR IRELAND

Community Foundation Ireland, its donors and 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable partners share a mission of ‘equality for all in thriving communities.’

The Foundation is a philanthropic hub with the expertise and experience to deliver positive, sustainable, and strategic impact.

We link the generosity and vision of donors with the energy, ideas, and time of people in the community. Our unique connectivity with communities and frontline services allows us to do this.

The purpose of Community Foundation Ireland is to drive impactful social change. We are committed to working with frontline partners and with changemakers who want to make a difference.

We know philanthropy. It is different from public funding or charitable giving. It allows strategic and sustainable funding. It allows us to push boundaries. It is solution driven. It is brave.

We want to grow philanthropy and its impact by offering best in class services, research and insights.

As a Foundation we hold ourselves to the highest standards of openness and transparency with robust internal policies and Governance.

Our Corporate Reputation and approach give confidence to donors, grantees, and wider communities that our work is at all times carried out to reflect our core mission of equality for all in thriving communities.



# Our Ambition

## AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE

As a philanthropic hub for Ireland with an equality mission, Community Foundation Ireland, its donors and grantees have ambition. We are committed to:

- Curating opportunities for philanthropy around key social and emerging issues.
- Harnessing investment to respond to the needs of communities.
- Continuing to grow assets while opening new pathways to philanthropy.
- Building on an agile, flexible and innovative culture, governance and operating model.
- Ensuring impact and learning to inform future practice and policy.

## OUR DRIVERS

- Impactful philanthropy and asset management.
- Powering Transformative Funding and Grant-making.
- Deep Community Connectivity and Knowledge.





# Our Intended Impact

We take an inclusive holistic approach to delivering impact across four key areas, which reflect both long-standing and emerging challenges:

- Sustainable Futures places Community Foundation Ireland as leaders on biodiversity and climate-action, working in partnership with communities as well as Government to address the biggest challenges of all.
- We nurture Inclusive Communities where everyone is respected and has the opportunity to contribute and thrive.
- We Empower Generations to ensure everyone is heard and respected irrespective of age.
- Accelerating Change sees us working with change-makers to overcome systematic and societal barriers to equality and fairness.





# How We Work

Community Foundation Ireland is a philanthropic hub for enlightened donors looking to have a positive impact on Ireland through strategic giving.

The Foundation is an expert, experienced, and passionate team of professional advisors, strategists, activators and facilitators who have established a trusted reputation by working with donors, non-profit organisations and communities.

- We provide services to a wide range of donor types from individuals and families to businesses and corporations. We ensure their desire to give back delivers the greatest possible impact on causes of interest to them and in service of positive change for Ireland.
- We facilitate a small number of high impact public donation appeals.
- We also convene and facilitate multiple organisations in support of a common cause.

As a Community Foundation we have our own endowment fund. Endowing philanthropic gifts is a highly successful model of sustainability that has driven Community Foundations globally for well over a century. As a Community Foundation we have our own endowment fund - allowing donors to have an impact on the community both now and into the future.

Through our activities, we have established a wide and deep network of working relationships with more than 5,000 organisations and communities across Ireland.

This provides a rich source of insight for our strategic giving. It allows us to identify patterns, connections and solutions that others cannot yet see.

For donors, we provide a comprehensive solution for establishing, deploying and managing high-impact philanthropic funds.





## GRANT MAKING

At Community Foundation Ireland, our grant-making supports our non-profit partners to make positive changes in their communities.

We work to support non-profits big and small to meet their immediate needs for projects, programmes, and services from hyperlocal to national levels. We have an eye on the future too. The Foundation is committed to long-lasting systemic change which breaks intergenerational cycles and places policies and laws for equality on a permanent footing.

Our open grant rounds provide space for collaboration, innovation, and new projects to emerge. Our directed grant-making through donor partnerships, respond to the vision, ambition, and expertise of the Foundation’s non-profit community.

To make real, lasting change we know that different interventions are needed. That’s why our grant-making programme supports research, advocacy, movement-building, and capacity building in the non-profit sector.



# Organisational Enablers

## A PHILANTHROPIC HUB FOR IRELAND

Community Foundation Ireland adopts a thought leadership role. We ensure effective relationships through an engagement strategy rooted in clear communications. We expand opportunities for donors, engage professional advisors and provide a boutique offering for corporate philanthropy.

- Our ever-evolving network of grantee organisations and communities enables us to convene and create long-term connected strategic programmes, offering donors greater impact for their strategic funds than the lesser impact of isolated charitable donations.
- Our approach allows donors to grow in their understanding and ambition for their funds.

- We offer our community partners access to funding, recognition and support that furthers their mission. We do so in a manner that is respectful of the time and expertise, ensuring that their efforts are focused on delivering positive change in support of our donor and funds' objectives.
- Through our ability to convene groups of interested parties and foster alliances, we connect grantees with other organisations that have the potential to support and further their individual and collective ambitions.

## INCREASE SOCIAL IMPACT

As a Community Foundation we ensure impactful, evidence-based grant-making, with flexibility for new opportunities. Our thematic approach helps guide and inspire donors by growing our evidence base.

As a convenor we ensure deep connectivity with our community partners ensuring a deep understanding and knowledge of both the sector and challenges which must be addressed.

We are committed to maintaining systems that enable high-quality grant-making and donor care.





**EXPAND OUR REACH THROUGH A TRANSFORMATION  
AND ENABLEMENT STRATEGY**

Community Foundation Ireland is committed to raise its profile, corporate reputation and brand distinctiveness. We define key audiences with targeted strategies and messages to engage them. We use storytelling to highlight our impact.

- The Foundation uses traditional, digital and social media to reach its intended audiences and support the mission of equality for all in thriving communities.
- The Foundation develops best in class systems to support and engage staff in an ongoing basis to enhance leadership capability and support organisational development.
- We improve organisational effectiveness and optimum donor service delivery through process improvement.

**STRENGTHEN ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY  
AND CAPACITY**

Community Foundation Ireland is an expert, experienced, and passionate team of professional advisors, strategists, activators and facilitators who have established a trusted reputation by working with donors, non-profit organisations and communities to deliver funding strategies that have positively impacted Ireland.

- We achieve excellence through talent management, succession planning and leadership development, with operations led by a Senior Leadership Team.
- We continuously develop our definition of impact, our impact measurement and ability to communicate same.
- Organisational performance is developed through agreement of key performance indicators.



## ENSURE A FINANCIAL SUSTAINABLE MODEL

Community Foundation Ireland is committed to high standards of accountability, probity, financial control and business planning. The Foundation fosters an environment of continuous improvement so that our processes and procedures remain up to date, relevant, robust and fit for purpose.

- We continuously design and implement a financial model that allows for regular and easy analysis to inform strategic choices for the future organisation.
- We deliver value for money and efficiency in all our activities.
- We will continue to build collaborations with other funders to deepen impact.





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For change. For better. For all.