

AerCap Fund at Community Foundation Ireland

AerCare Grants Programme 2026

About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland and its partners believe in equality for all in thriving communities. We work with individuals, families, corporates and other trusts and foundations, as well as Government, to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable and impactful. We use our skills and knowledge developed over 25 years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments.

The Foundation works with partners to achieve solutions for both long-standing and emerging challenges. Through our many partnerships we are working towards a world where barriers are broken down and communities are empowered to thrive. Working with you, other non-profits and donors, we are committed to making this vision a reality.

About the AerCap Fund

AerCap, a leading global aviation company, has a strong Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme spanning twelve offices across the Americas, EMEA, and Asia Pacific. Its CSR work is focused on its core values of Ambition, Excellence, and Respect.

In 2026, AerCap is working with Community Foundation Ireland through the **AerCap Fund** to implement the **AerCare Grants Programme**.

The Aim of the AerCare Grants Programme

Over the next three years (2026-2028), AerCap will be seeking to identify several key strategic partnerships that align best with its corporate values and its key Sustainable Development Goals. In 2026, up to 20 organisations will be selected for grants. This pool of grantees will be narrowed down to 10 organisations in 2027 and to five final strategic partner organisations in 2028. The final five organisations selected will have shown demonstrable alignment with AerCap's values and SDGs, and will have developed a strong relationship with AerCap over the course of three years in terms of showcasing the impact of AerCap's investment both through impact reporting and engagement with AerCap employees through presentations and guest speakers. These final five organisations will receive a three-year funding commitment from the AerCare Grants Programme (2028-2030).

Priorities for this Fund

Organisations will be selected for funding based on their alignment with AerCap's corporate values and with one or more of AerCap's chosen SDGs.

To demonstrate alignment with AerCap's corporate values, applicants should focus on:

- **Ambition:** Organisations or projects that seek to address difficult societal or environmental problems. Organisations and projects can show plans to scale or may already be scaled up to a significant degree.
- **Excellence:** Organisations must show excellent governance in their initial application, and those that demonstrate excellent impact reporting will be considered for the 2027 grant round.
- **Respect:** Organisations or projects that place an emphasis on human dignity, inclusion, and empowerment will be best aligned with this value.

To demonstrate alignment with AerCap's chosen SDGs, applicants should consider how their work is relevant to one or more of the following. Applications demonstrating alignment with multiple SDGs will be more competitive in this grant round.

- **SDG 3: Good Health & Wellbeing**

Organisations/projects that focus on one or more of the following:

- Mental health and suicide prevention
- Cancer care and hospice services

- **SDG 4: Quality Education**

Organisations/projects that focus on one or more of the following:

- Increasing access to early childhood development programming
- Increasing access to free, high-quality primary and secondary education, with the goal of increasing literacy and numeracy

- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

Organisations/projects that focus on one or more of the following:

- Poverty and economic exclusion
- Housing and homelessness

40 organisations will be invited to submit applications, and 20 will be selected for funding in 2026. Given this is a competitive grants programme, priority will be given to applications that:

- Demonstrate how the voice of beneficiaries has been included in programme development/organisational strategy;
- Strongly articulate the impact of the work on your beneficiaries;
- Have a clear plan for how impact will be measured;

- Clearly articulate the alignment between your work and the priorities for this fund included AerCap’s corporate values and SDGs.

You will have an opportunity in the application form to describe the unique value of your project.

Eligibility

Eligible organisations must...	Eligible projects must...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a registered charity or a formalised local community/voluntary group • Have up to date and sufficient governing documents such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association • Annual accounts • A dedicated organisational bank account • Safeguarding policies where relevant • Prove ability to provide reports on a funded project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate alignment with the key focus areas of the Fund, including AerCap’s corporate values and priority SDGs • Clearly demonstrate impact on the beneficiary group • May be new <i>or</i> ongoing programmes • Must be able to report back on impact by the end of 2026

Ineligible organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory bodies • Profit-making enterprises or sole proprietors • Animal welfare groups • Proposals from individuals • Sporting organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious or political activities • Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded • Projects where the requested funds would replace existing statutory funding • Projects outside of the priority SDGs

Programme Costs, Staff Costs, Core Costs, & Contingency

Proposals to this fund should be for specific projects with clear outputs and outcomes, and budgets may up to 50% staff costs and core costs (for example rent, insurance, and utility bills). In other words, the budget should be at least 50% programme costs. We allow up to

10% contingency to be built into your budget. The aim of the funding is to allow flexibility for organisations to deliver their programmes as best they can.

Funding Available

Organisations can apply for **€16,900 EUR** which should be spent down **by November 2026**.

- If your organisation is successful, we will pay the grant in your local currency; however your application budget request must be a maximum of €16,900 EUR.
- Please see the Application Help Guide (p.13) for detailed information on how we will calculate payments to successful grantees based on local currencies.
- The total project costs may be larger than the amount applied for, but you must identify how the gap in funding will be managed.

Application Process

Please note this is a competitive grant round and applying with an eligible project does not guarantee funding.

Grant Round Timeline

Opening Date for applications	24 Feb 2026
Closing Date for applications:	24 Mar 2026
Grants will be awarded:	May 2026
Work should begin:	Late May/Early June 2026
Project complete:	November 2026
Outcome Report due:	November 2026

Given the scale of funding available, we expect organisations to be able to spend down the funds by November 2026. The 2027 grant round will be open in Q1 -2027 by invitation only.

Assessment Framework

Applicants will be assessed on the following:

- Fit with criteria
- Evidenced need
- Budget, financial capability, and governance
- Impact of funding

AerCap is interested in volunteering opportunities with its grantee partners, but this will not be part of your application scoring. Volunteer opportunities may or may not be fulfilled by AerCap employees.

To ensure the Fund is as impactful as possible, we will also consider other factors, including a diverse range of targeted beneficiaries. We aim to support a wide variety of people and causes, and may prioritise proposals that focus on under-represented beneficiary groups.

Reporting Requirements

All grantees will be required to submit an Outcome Report due before 30th of November 2026. Reports will be submitted using our grants portal.

How to Apply

The Fund is open for applications on 24 February 2026 and will close at **4pm on 24 March 2026**.

Please note that Community Foundation Ireland has moved to a [new grants system](#) for collecting applications. Please see your invite email and Help Guide attachment to log in and start your application. This includes guidance on updating your 'Organisation Profile' which must be completed before funding can be received.

[Resources and help in accessing the Grants Portal can also be found here.](#)

Contacts

Should you have any further questions, please contact Seán Maher at smaher@foundation.ie.