



Biodiversity Fund 2025

Implementing CBAP Recommendations

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. The work is built upon four pillars: Empowering Generations, Sustainable Futures, Inclusive Communities and Accelerating Change.

Through our many partnerships we are working towards an Ireland 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 Biodiversity Fund

We are inviting any organisation who has a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their area to apply for funding to implement some of the recommendations contained in it.

If you do not have a Community Biodiversity Action Plan you are not eligible for this strand but may be eligible to apply for the 'Developing a CBAP' Strand. You can find information about this on our website.

For more information on CBAPs, please visit the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Criteria and Renewing a CBAP

Organisations with a Community Biodiversity Action Plan are invited to apply for grants of **up to €12,000** to implement recommendations emerging from their Community Biodiversity Action Plans (CBAPs).

- Please note we cannot grant more than 50% of a group's annual income. E.g. if your annual income is €20,000, the maximum grant you can receive is €10,000.
- However, we can fund up to €6,000 to groups of any size.
- Organisations whose CBAP finishes in 2025 can include **€4,000** in their budget to hire an ecologist to renew it. This €4,000 must be included in the maximum €12,000 you can apply for – **it is not an addition**.

These grants will only be available to those groups who have submitted their full Community Biodiversity Action Plans and their full data set to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC). Please ensure your CBAP is on the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website hosted by the NBDC.



Please ensure you have all permissions approved before applying. This may be from landowners, local councils, farmers, etc.

The total cost for the project can be larger than the amount applied for, but Community Foundation Ireland will only fund the amount available through the Strand. Where there are funding gaps, the organisation should note how the additional funds have/will be raised.

Budgets can include the cost of a consultant ecologist.

Ecologists have agreed to a daily rate for their work of €550 exclusive of VAT, travel and subsistence.

Tips on Applying

- **Please do not apply for general biodiversity projects as they will not be assessed.**
- Please attach your CBAP as this is essential for our assessors to make an informed decision.
- Be as descriptive as possible when describing your targeted area and actions.
- Contacting and collaborating with other environmental groups, community groups, or Tidy Towns organisations in your area is a great way to strengthen an application.
- Please include community outreach/community awareness raising in your budgets. This can include educational events, school talks, public walks/talks with the ecologist, etc.
- **We strongly recommend contacting your local Biodiversity Officer before making an application.**

Grant Round Timeline

Action	Date
Opening date for applications:	8 th September 2025
Closing date for applications:	4pm, 17 th October 2025
All applicants informed of decision:	December 2025
Grant payments	December 2025 / January 2026
Progress Report due:	August 2026
Final Outcome Report due:	February 2027



Eligibility

Eligible organisations...	Eligible projects...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be not-for-profit. Charities, non-profit sports clubs, community & voluntary groups, etc. are all eligible.• Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, accounts, and a dedicated bank account.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be to carry out recommendations from a Biodiversity Action Plan.• Must liaise with Landowners / Farmers / Local Authorities.• Will include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales.

Ineligible organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisations with an application in progress with the Charities Regulator• Statutory bodies• For-profit companies• Organisations outside the Republic of Ireland• Individual people who are not part of an organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc.• Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded.• Projects that do not have permission from all landowners involved.• Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland

Priorities for this Strand

Each year this is a very competitive grant round so the following proposals may be prioritised:

- Proposals that show engagement with the local Biodiversity Officer.
- Proposals that focus on engaging the wider community and demonstrate an intention and capacity to work closely with local landowners, managers, and **particularly farmers**.
- Projects that make the greatest impact on restoring the biodiversity of the plan area.
- To ensure the Fund is as impactful as possible, other factors including geographic spread will be taken into consideration. We aim to support as much of the country as possible and may elevate organisations from counties that do not have many proposals.



Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Acknowledge the support of Community Foundation Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on any materials associated with the grant.
- Submit a short Progress Report in August 2026.
- Submit an Outcome Report in February 2027.

Progress and Outcome Reports will be submitted via our Grants Portal and you will be notified in advance of their due date.

Documentation we need to make grants

Applicants will need to complete their 'organisation profile' on our grants portal to ensure they meet our governance standards. Please complete your organisation profile before you submit your application.

Organisations who have received funding in 2025 will already have their organisation profile submitted.

- **Mission Statement OR Constitution OR Memorandum and Articles of Association.**
 - This must show the mission statement or main objects of the organisation, and how any donations will be used. It must also include information on what happens to remaining funds should your organisation be wound-up.
 - This document must be **signed**.
- **A bank account statement**
 - The header must clearly show the Account name, number, BIC and IBAN.
 - This must be dated within the last six months.
- **List of Committee members / Board members**
 - All applicants will be asked to submit all members of their committee/board, and their length of time served.
- **The organisation's latest signed annual accounts or financial statement**
 - Annual accounts should include unabridged financial statements for the last year, or where relevant, a monthly profit and loss for the year.
 - Organisations with an annual income of less than €100,000 should provide a **signed** record of your accounts for one full year.
 - Organisations with an annual income of more than €100,000 must provide **signed** audited annual accounts.



How to Apply

The Fund is open for applications on **8th September** and will close at **4pm, Friday 17th October**.

Please note all applications must be made through our [Grants Portal](#). We will not accept any other type of application.

[The Grants Portal can be found here.](#)

- Groups who have received funding from us in the past will already be registered and may already have log in details. New groups can register by clicking 'Register Here'.
- If you have logged into the Grants Portal before but do not remember your password, please click 'forgot password'.
- If you need any help logging into the portal please contact us and we will make it a priority to get you set up.

Please read our general guidance around accessing and submitting [applications here](#).

You can also access the Application Help Guide on our website which contains a step-by-step guide to submitting applications, including the list of questions contained in the application.

Should you have any further questions, or need assistance accessing the portal, please contact our Grants Team at info@foundation.ie.