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The Guinness Dublin 8 Community Fund at Community Foundation Ireland FAQs

Please read through the following FAQs regarding the Guinness Dublin 8 Community Fund. We would also recommend watching our webinar on the criteria, you can find this on our website. If your question is not answered, please email the Grants Team at info@foundation.ie.

Contents

About the Fund

What is the Guinness Dublin 8 Community Fund?

The Guinness Dublin 8 Community Fund aims to support charities, non-profits and local community and voluntary groups based in Dublin 8 that improve the lives of local Dublin 8 communities. The Fund will make a total of including 20 grants directly to local Dublin 8 organisations which demonstrate a strong impact and benefit to the local community.

This fund seeks to respond to the needs of the local community by supporting projects which meet one or more of the below three objectives:

- To enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for the local communities of Dublin 8.
- To foster community development in Dublin 8.
- To address themes of sustainability and climate in Dublin 8.

How much funding can my organisation apply for?

A total of 20 grants will be awarded across three strands. The strands are divided based on the size of your organisational income in the most recent financial year. Please do not apply to multiple strands.

Strand 1

Applicants can apply to Strand 1 if their organisation had an income of under €20,000 in the most recent financial year. Under this strand, 10 grants of **€2,500** each will be awarded.

Strand 2

Applicants can apply to Strand 2 if their organisation had an income of between €20,000 and €200,000 in the most recent financial year. Under this strand, 5 grants of **€20,000** will be awarded.

Strand 3

Applicants can apply to Strand 3 if their organisation had an income of between €200,000 and €2,000,000 in the most recent financial year. Under this strand, 5 grants of **€75,000** will be awarded.

What is the criteria around acknowledging Guinness and Community Foundation Ireland if you are approved?

We will provide a Community Foundation Ireland logo and a Guinness logo which will need to be included in all public facing materials and activities supporting the successful project.

Who can apply?

Am I eligible to apply?

Charities, non-profits, local community and voluntary groups based in Dublin 8 who benefit communities in Dublin 8 are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply to the fund. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact info@foundation.ie.

What types of organisations can apply to the fund?

Non-profit organisations, charities, local community and voluntary groups who are based in Dublin 8 and benefit Dublin 8 communities may apply to this fund. The essential qualities of an eligible organisation are:

- Based in Dublin 8 and benefit the community of Dublin 8.
- Are a not-for-profit organisation.
- Have up to date governing documents as required in the 'Governing Documents' section.
- Have safeguarding policies in place if you work with children or vulnerable adults.
- Have an organisational bank account.

As an organisation with an annual income of over €2mill, does this make us ineligible for a grant?

Yes. This fund is supporting organisations with a maximum annual income of €2million. If your income in the most recent financial year is above this threshold, please do not apply.

Would a university or university foundation be eligible?

If the university meets all other criteria such as being based in Dublin 8, not for profit along with the other eligibility criteria then yes, under those circumstances it would be eligible.

What types of organisations are not eligible to apply to this fund?

Ineligible organisations include:

- Profit-making organisations.
- Branches of a larger national charity.
- Individual applicants or apply with an individual's bank account.
- Uniformed organisations such as schools, scouts, guides or hospitals.
- Animal welfare, sport* or religious charities.
- Organisations whose work takes place overseas.

We cannot fund sporting organisations for a project that has a sporting purpose only. However, we will consider projects delivered through sport where the primary aim is to promote access, inclusion, or equality—for example, initiatives

that use sport as a tool for social impact rather than performance or competition. If you are a sporting organisation and would like to discuss a possible project/application to confirm its eligibility, please get in touch before you apply.

Why are sports organisations not eligible?

All our grants must have a charitable purpose. We use the definition of "charitable purpose" from the Charities Act 2009, which expressly excludes sport. However, if you are a sports organisation which meets all other eligibility criteria of this fund, and you have an eligible project which has a primary purpose of inclusion, access and/or equality (three acceptable charitable purposes) then, you may apply to this fund, and your application will be assessed with all other applications.

Why are uniformed organisations such as schools, scouts, guides or hospitals not eligible?

This fund is designed to support community-led initiatives that may not have access to other mainstream funding sources. Uniformed organisations such as schools, scouts, guides, and hospitals often have alternative funding streams or institutional support. By focusing on grassroots and community-based groups, the fund aims to ensure that resources reach those who may be underrepresented or underserved in traditional funding landscapes.

I'm a social enterprise, can I apply?

If your social enterprise is non-profit and states so in your governing document, if you meet all other eligibility criteria and your project is eligible, then yes you may apply and your application will be assessed amongst all other applications.

My organisation is not eligible; can I still receive funding?

Organisations that do not fit the criteria above are not eligible to apply for funding and any ineligible applications submitted will not be successful. However, ineligible organisations may collaborate with eligible organisations in order to access the funding through a joint project. In these cases, the lead applicant must be eligible.

Can we apply for a project in collaboration with another organisation?

Collaboration between organisations is permitted where impact is substantially increased as a result of the collaboration. The organisation that is applying for the grant must be eligible based on the criteria and should be the lead partner in the project. They will be the point of contact for queries, payment, and reporting. The partner in the collaboration does not need to be eligible for this grant round.

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My organisation is local branch of a larger national charity, can I apply?

Local branches of larger national charities are not eligible to apply. The fund aims to support organisations local to Dublin 8, who do not have the fundraising power of larger national organisations.

Does my organisation need a bank account?

Yes. The Community Foundation for Ireland can only pay out grants to organisations with a dedicated bank account and not to individual accounts.

What kind of projects can apply?

Is my project eligible to apply?

After a period of consultation with the local Dublin 8 community, this fund seeks to respond to the needs of the local community by supporting projects which:

- Will enhance educational opportunities or foster community development or address themes of climate and sustainability.
- Will benefit adults and mixed age groups.
- Will be based in Dublin 8 and will benefit the community of Dublin 8.
- May request funding for costs associated with running projects such as purchase of materials; venue hire or facilitator costs.
- Will begin work in early February 2026.

Tell me more about the three objectives of the fund?

The fund seeks to respond to the needs of the local Dublin 8 community by supporting projects which meet one or more of the below three objectives:

1. **Enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for the local communities of Dublin 8**: This fund seeks to support projects which empower and equip people who may be at risk of limited educational attainment. Projects which enable and support local people to access education, skills, mentorship, internships or other pathways that allow for greater access to better educational opportunities and outcomes.

2. **Foster community development in Dublin 8**: Projects which enhance community cohesion, inclusion, diversity and connection will also be supported. Community development projects may also be those which empower community leaders, build skills and support people to make the changes they want to see. The fund seeks to support initiatives which bring together a wide range of members of the local community together

to grow a sense of place, trust, shared experience and relationship building.

3. **Address themes of sustainability & climate in Dublin 8**: The fund also seeks to support projects which support the long-term sustainability of the community through projects which tackle themes of climate education, action, awareness, biodiversity, circular economy, food wastage or insecurity.

Can I apply for a project that has already happened?

No. We cannot award funding for projects that have already happened.

How long should the project last?

If you are applying under Strand 1, your project must be completed 12 months from start. Projects under Strands 2 & 3 may apply for multi-annual projects which last 1, 2 or 3 years.

What are capital expenses?

We define capital expenses as <u>fixed infrastructural purchases</u> such as buildings.

Can I include staff salaries in my application?

Proposals to this fund can include the proportion of staff time or consultation costs <u>specifically related to the project</u>. We cannot cover core staff salaries outside of what is relevant to the project. New salary costs are not eligible.

What types of proposals are not eligible for funding?

Ineligible projects include:

- Religious or political promotion.
- Projects which exclusively benefit children under 18.
- Core costs such as insurance, rent or bills.
- New salary costs.
- Overseas travel.
- Research costs or individual tuition.
- Repayment of loans or capital purchases.
- Equipment for Hospitals or Schools.

Can I apply for a project that costs more than the amount I can apply for?

Yes. Organisations doing so must show in their application how they will fund the gap. This funding must be restricted to the project that has been applied for and must be spent within 12 months.

I'm eligible for strand 3, can I apply for a portion of the €75,000 or do you have to apply for the full amount?

In strand 3, you can apply for any amount up to a maximum of €75,000.

If applying for a multi-year project under strand 3, is the maximum amount €75,000 over 3 years, or is it €75,000 per year for 3 years?

In strand 3, the maximum amount is €75,000 over a maximum period of 3 years.

I have received part-funding for my project from another trust or donor; can I apply to this grant round as well?

Yes. This funding can be a contribution to the work already being undertaken by the organisation or it can be for new work.

Does the project need to be for new work?

Your proposal does not need to be for a new project or programme.

Do I need to have a budget planned ahead of time?

Yes. All organisations are required to include a detailed budget breakdown in their grant application, outlining how they plan to allocate the funds if awarded the grant. This breakdown should be as comprehensive as possible as it will be an important part of our assessment process.

How do I make an application?

Where should I send an application?

All proposals must be submitted through our online Grants Portal.

Can I send in my proposal via email or post?

All proposals must be submitted through our online Grants Portal. We cannot accept applications in other formats.

How do I access and log in to the grants portal?

If you have applied to Community Foundation Ireland for funding in the past on behalf of your current organisation, you may already be in our system. You can click on 'Forget your Password', reset your password and then log in with your new details.

If you have never applied for funding before, or you have recently joined your organisation, you may need to register an account to access your Grants Portal. Click 'Register Here' to go through the registration process.

When you log in, you will be able to see all the previous applications submitted by your organisation and opportunities to apply for funding.

I don't have a password, what should I do?

If you are logging in for the first time but you have received a grant from Community Foundation in the past, you can click 'Forgot Password' where you will be prompted to set a new one.

If you have never applied for a grant in the past, you won't already be on our system, in this case you will need to Register instead.

I've clicked 'Forgot Password' but I haven't received an email, what should I do?

If you haven't received an email to reset your password, email portal@foundation.ie and we can set up a temporary password for you. You will then be prompted to set your own.

I'm registering for the first time, and the Grants Portal is saying that I already have an account, what should I do?

If you try to register to the Grants Portal, but our system recognises your email, this means you are already on our system. Instead of registering again, you can go back to the login page and click 'Forgot Password' instead. Once you have reset your password you can log in as normal.

I have logged on to the portal, how do I start an application?

Once you log into the portal, you will see the 'Funding Opportunities' available to you. Listed in the opportunities will be all 3 Strands of the Guinness Dublin 8 Community Fund. Please click on and apply to the strand which is relevant to your most recent annual income.

Once you start an application and save the first draft, it will be available in your 'Draft Applications' on the portal.

How should I choose what Strand to apply under?

The three strands are divided based on the size of your organisational income in the most recent financial year. You should only apply once to the strand which your organisational income falls into. Please do not apply to multiple strands.

Strand 1: Applicants can apply to Strand 1 if their organisation had an income of under €20,000 in the most recent financial year. Under this strand, 10 grants of €2,500 each will be awarded.

Strand 2: Applicants can apply to Strand 2 if their organisation had an income of between €20,000 and €200,000 in the most recent financial year. Under this strand, 5 grants of €20,000 will be awarded.

Strand 3: Applicants can apply to Strand 3 if their organisation had an income of between €200,000 and €2,000,000 in the most recent financial year. Under this strand, 5 grants of €75,000 will be awarded.

Can I apply to multiple Strands?

No, organisations can only apply once to one of the Strands.

Can funds be paid into a credit union account?

Yes, but only for an organisations Credit Union account. We cannot pay to the Credit Union account of an individual. You must include the BIC and IBAN for the credit union account in the application.

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What documents should I submit with my application?

When submitting the application, all organisations will be required to upload digital copies of the following governance documents to our online grants management portal.

- The Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association: this must show the mission statement or main objects of the organisation, state that you are a non-profit, how any donations will be managed and the winding up clause. This document must be signed by two board members.

- A current list of your organisation's board members and the dates they were first appointed: For organisations with an income of more than €100,000 in the most recent financial year, copies of photo IDs from two board members should also be submitted, as well as a proof of address from one of these members.

- A bank or credit union account statement header of your organisations bank account: this statement header must clearly show the Account Name, BIC and IBAN. Please blank out any transactions, as this is purely to verify the account to pay the grant into.

- The organisation's most recent annual accounts: Organisations with an annual income of less than €100,000 (Strand 1) should provide one set of signed accounts for the most recent accounting year. A signed profit and loss account is also acceptable for these organisations. Organisations with an annual income of over €100,000 (Strand 2 & 3) must provide 2 years of signed, unabridged and fully audited annual accounts.

If you do not submit the correct governance documents, your application will not be considered for funding.

I am not able to submit my governance documents, what can I do?

We cannot accept applications without all the correct governance documents. If you are having trouble submitting the documents, email us at info@foundation.ie before the deadline, and we will be able to help you. Please be mindful that if you are submitting last minute and cannot submit your documents, we may not be able to help you before the round closes.

Selection Process

Who will judge the entries?

All eligible applications will be assessed by Community Foundation Ireland.

How will you assess the applications?

Applications will be fully assessed and scored against how well the application meets the below:

- Satisfactory and up to date governance documents and procedures.
- Proof of good financial management.
- Met all other eligibility criteria for the fund.
- Clearly demonstrated how their project either:
  - Supports enhanced educational opportunities,
  - Fosters community development or
  - Address's themes of climate & sustainability.
- Have clearly articulated the need for their project in the community.

- Have clearly articulated the 3 main objectives of their project.

- Have clearly articulated the beneficial impact of their project on the local communities of Dublin 8.

- Have presented a clear and realistic budget and timeline for their project.

- Have clearly articulated how they will measure the impact of their project.

What will happen if you have more high scoring applications than you have grants to give out?

In the event of a highly competitive process, priority may be given to:

- Projects which demonstrate the potential for long-term impact.

- Priority may be given to projects which impact a very broad range of demographic groups including, but not limited to specific disadvantaged groups such as:

  - Ethnic Minorities,

  - Travellers & Roma,

  - Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Migrants,

  - Carers,

  - Lone Parents,

  - Disabled People/ People with disabilities,

  - Neurodiverse People.

- Projects which address more than one or all of the 3 key objectives to:

  - Support enhanced educational opportunities.

  - Foster community development

  - Address themes of climate & sustainability

- Projects from organisations whose primary charitable objective aligns with one or more of the 3 key objectives as above.

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Some proposals are being prioritised in this grant round, is it worth applying even if my project isn't a priority?

Yes. While some types of projects may be prioritised in a highly competitive round, we encourage all eligible applicants to apply. We aim to support a diverse range of projects, and funding decisions will be based on the overall strength of the application.

What makes a strong application?

Strong applications will:

- Provide clear, up-to-date governance and financial documentation
- Clearly demonstrate the need for the project in the community
- Outline three specific, measurable objectives
- Show how the project will strongly benefit communities in Dublin 8
- Present a realistic budget and timeline
- Explain how the impact of the project will be measured

Key Dates

When is the grant round deadline?

The deadline has been extended to 11:59pm on Monday November 24th.

When will we find out the outcome?

We will be informing all applicants of outcomes in late January 2026.

Will I be required to report on what the grant has been used for?

All grantees will be required to submit a Progress and Outcome Report during the project. Progress reports will be due in August 2026 and Outcome reports will be due in February 2027.

If there is a questions which has not been addressed in this document, please contact info@foundation.ie.