

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2025 Grants Round FAQs

Please read through the following FAQs regarding the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. 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

What types of organisations can apply to the fund?

Children and family charities can apply to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal.

- Organisations registered with the Charities Regulator
- Charities with an annual income of €20,000-€500,000 may apply to the Community Grants Round. Organisations may work at a local or a national level.
- Charities with an annual income of more than €500,000 may apply to the Impact Grants Round. Organisations may work at a regional or national level.

Applicants must have a charity number and must regularly work with the following vulnerable or marginalised children and young people (0-18):

- Children and young people at risk of poverty and facing consistent poverty.
- Children and young people facing discrimination.
- Children and young people with disabilities, life-limiting conditions and additional needs.
- Children and young people facing and/or recovering from trauma, abuse or exploitation.

I'm not sure if I am a child or family focused charity, how can I check?

Eligible charities are ones that are primarily focused on supporting children and their families and regularly work with children or young people and their families. A large proportion of a charity's day-to-day activity should be focused on supporting children and their families. To quantify this, eligible charities should spend around 60% of their time working with children and young people.

Whilst we have provided guidance above on this, we understand that this is not an exact science. To this end, there is a question in the application form which will enable applicants to demonstrate their eligibility with the criteria. The benefit that children and their families feel as a result of the charity's work must be clear in your answer.

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

Ineligible organisations include:

- Organisations not registered with the Charities Regulator
- Charities with an annual income of less than €20,000
- Universities and state bodies

- Sports organisations
- Profit-making companies
- Animal welfare organisations
- Proposals from individuals

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.

How much funding can my organisation apply for?

In the Community Grants Round, eligible organisations with an income of €20,000 - €500,000 may apply for funding in the range of €10,000 - €20,000. This funding must be spent down within 12 months.

In the Impact Grants Round, eligible organisations with an income of €500,000+ may apply for funding in the range of €20,000 - €50,000. This funding must be spent down within 12 months.

This year, we are bringing back the Transformative Grants Round. Those who are eligible for the Impact Grants Round may submit an Expression of Interest for a project of up to €150,000. This may be spent down over 2 years. Please see below for more FAQs on the Transformative Grants.

My organisation is local group, which is part of a national network, can I apply?

Local organisations that are part of a national network are not eligible to apply. Any local branches should ensure their coordinate with their head office so they can submit one application on behalf of the whole organisation.

It is the annual income of the national organisations that will determine which grant round the organisation can apply for.

What types of proposals are eligible for funding?

Proposals that benefit the following cohorts of children and young people (0-18 years old) are eligible:

- Children and young people at risk of poverty and facing consistent poverty.
- Children and young people facing discrimination.
- Children and young people with disabilities, life-limiting conditions and additional needs.

- Children and young people facing and/or recovering from trauma, abuse or exploitation.

Projects that work with parents, teachers etc are eligible, provided that the project primarily impacts children 0-18. The impact on the children should be clearly shown in the application and the parents or teachers should be regarded as a secondary beneficiary to the project.

Proposals must align with one of the aims and objectives of the Strand, Addressing Essential Needs, Improving Wellbeing or Creativity and Play.

How should I choose what Strand and Objective to apply under?

In the RTÉ Toy Show appeal, we have outlined three strands, where we aim to make an impact:

- Addressing Essential Needs
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Creativity and Play.

Within each of these Strands, we have identified specific objectives that applicants should aim to meet through their project. Choose one objective that most closely aligns with the programme you wish to apply for.

For example, Charity A is applying for the Impact Grants Round, based on their annual income. They regularly run arts and drama workshops for young people, but the lack of space limits the number of children they can work with. They hope to renovate a nearby space to make it suitable to run additional arts and drama workshops by purchasing furniture, redoing the wallpaper and replacing a broken window. This charity's project meets the objective: 'Increase the number of accessible recreational areas, including green spaces, by developing existing or new spaces.' Which fits within the Creativity and Play strand.

What types of proposals are not eligible for funding?

Ineligible projects include:

- Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc.
- Advocacy
- Large-scale development, new building construction, or land purchases
- Purchasing vehicles
- Religious or political activities
- Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded.
- Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland.

Can I include staff salaries and capital costs in my application?

Staff salaries and staff hours are eligible in this grant round, provided that the salary/hours are specifically related to the project. They should be included in the budget alongside the expected programme costs. Core running costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc are not eligible.

Small and large scale equipment costs are eligible in both the Community and the Impact Grants Rounds. Small scale building or outdoor space development, such as renovation and extensions is also eligible, but constructing a new building or buying a building or land is not.

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

We have indicated in the criteria that particular types of projects will be prioritised. We hope to fund both priority and non-priority projects, however, we anticipate that this grant round will be very competitive so that may not be the case for every proposal.

How long should the project last?

Projects should last no more than 12 months from June 2025 - June 2026.

Does the project need to be for new work?

Your proposal does not need to be for a new project or programme. We are not able to fund core organisational costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc.

Please contact info@foundation.ie if you would like further clarification.

Can I apply for a project that has already happened?

Community Foundation Ireland cannot accept applications for projects that have already happened. Please bear in mind that if successful, grants will be awarded in May/June 2025 and projects should start in June 2025. Projects that are planned to start before June 2025 will not be eligible for funding.

Proposals that are to continue current, ongoing Toy Show Appeal projects are eligible, however, any the funding from this year's Toy Show Appeal should be allocated to the project from June 2025 onwards.

Can I apply to multiple Strands?

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

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

Collaboration between organisations is encouraged 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.

However, each charity may only submit **one** application. If your organisation has multiple branches, the application must be coordinated through the head office.

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

Yes, you can apply to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal for projects that you have received part funding for, but you must state this on your application.

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

Yes, organisations can apply for projects with an overall cost of larger than the amount applied for, but applicants should demonstrate how this gap will be filled. Applications that have a very high total cost without the additional funding secured are unlikely to be funded.

If my organisation has already, or is currently in receipt of a grant from Community Foundation Ireland, can I still apply?

Yes, if you have previously been in receipt of funding or are currently being funded by Community Foundation Ireland you can still apply to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. If you are currently running a project funded by the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, you can apply to extend the project until June 2026.

Can I send in my proposal via email or post?

No, all proposals must be submitted through our online **Grants Portal**. We cannot accept applications in any other format.

Links to the Grants Portal, the application form, and resources on how to register and complete your organisation's profile can be found on our website. We strongly recommend reviewing the criteria document carefully before starting your application.

If your organisation is not already registered on our Grants Portal, doing so should be prioritised, as it may take several days to be approved before the application can begin.

When is the grant round deadline?

The deadline is **4pm on Friday 14th March 2025**. No applications will be accepted after this time, including forms that have been partially completed prior to the deadline. We recommend you submit your application well before this deadline in case of any unexpected issues.

When will we find out the outcome?

We are expecting a large number of applications in this grant round so the outcome of your application should be announced at the end of May 2025. We expect successful organisations to start work in June 2025.

Can we apply to the Transformative Grant Round with an Expression of Interest?

Children and family charities that meet the criteria for the Impact Grants Round may also submit an Expression of Interest in being invited to apply to the Transformative Grants Round. Transformative Projects must be to significantly upscale Impact Projects and the following groups of children and young people must be the primary beneficiaries of this work:

Children and young people...

- in emergency/temporary accommodation
- in care
- who are members of Traveller or Roma communities
- facing acute physical or mental health challenges
- who have been impacted by the prison system
- who have been impacted by abuse of any kind
- who have been impacted by sexual exploitation

Applicants do not need to submit an Expression of Interest to the Transformative Grants Round, and if your Transformative Application is not successful, your application to the Impact Grants Round may still be successful.

What is the process for the Transformative Grants Round?

Organisations who wish to apply to the Transformative Grants Round should submit an Expression of Interest with their Impact Grant application. There is a separate form on our Grants Portal to submit your Expression of Interest.

Organisations will be shortlisted from these Expressions of Interest and will be invited to apply for a full proposal. These proposals will be assessed by our expert panel. Unsuccessful Transformative applications may still be successful in their Impact application.

Does my organisation need a bank account?

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

Can funds be paid into a credit union account?

If your organisation has a credit union account, you are still eligible to apply. You must include the BIC and IBAN for the credit union account in the application.

What documents should I submit with my application?

The following documents must be submitted alongside your application. We can only accept digital copies of these documents.

- The Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- A current list of your organisation's board / committee members and the dates they were appointed.
- A bank or credit union account statement header.
- The organisation's most recent signed annual audited accounts.

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

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 are not able to submit your documents, we may not be able to help you before the round closes.

What type of annual accounts do I need to submit?

Organisations with an annual income of less than €100,000 may provide annual accounts or a Profit and Loss account for the previous year. Organisations with an annual income of more than €100,000 must provide unabridged and **audited** annual accounts.

Accounts should be at least from 2023 onwards and must be signed.

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

All grantees will be required to submit an Interim and Outcome Report during the project. Interim reports will be due by the end of January 2026 and Outcome reports will be due in July 2026. RTÉ may require additional reporting alongside this. This will be detailed in the Grant Agreement prior to payments being made.