

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2026 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 grant round?

- Organisations registered with the Charities Regulator.
- Charities with up-to-date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts and child safeguarding policies.
- Child or family charities that work regularly with vulnerable or marginalised children from 0-18 years old and their families.
 - “Vulnerable or Marginalised” includes:
 - 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.
- Charities with an annual income of €20,000-€500,000 may apply to the Community Grants Round.
- Charities with an annual income of more than €500,000 may apply to the Impact Grants Round.

I’m not sure if I am a “child or family charity”, how can I check?

Eligible charities are ones that work regularly with vulnerable or marginalised children from 0-18 years old and their families.

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.

Please refer to the criteria document of the round you are applying to for further details including the eligibility of the project itself.

What types of organisations are not eligible to apply to this grant round?

Ineligible organisations include:

- Organisations not registered with the Charities Regulator
- Charities that do not regularly work with vulnerable or marginalised children.
- 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 also running the Transformative Grants Round. Those who are eligible for the Impact Grants Round may submit an Expression of Interest to scale up their project 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 they 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 organisation that will determine which grant round the organisation can apply for.

How should I choose what Strand to apply under?

In the RTÉ Toy Show appeal, we have outlined three Strands:

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

Within each of these Strands, there are specific outcomes that applicants should to achieve through their project.

Choose the outcome that most closely aligns with the programme you wish to apply for. Any applications that do not address one of these outcomes specifically, will not be eligible for funding.

Outcomes associated with the Addressing Essential Needs Strand

Vulnerable or marginalised children and young people have increased access to:

- Food, shelter, clothing etc for vulnerable children and families.
- Wraparound supports for families in crisis, reducing long-term dependency.
- Safe environments, online and in person.
- Education supports that supplement the mainstream system.

Outcomes associated with the Improving Wellbeing Strand

Vulnerable or marginalised children and young people have increased access to:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing programmes that improve outcomes for vulnerable or marginalised children and young people.
- Early intervention and trauma-informed services.
- Tools that build resilience and help families navigate adversity no matter their circumstances.

Outcomes associated with the Creativity and Play Strand

Vulnerable or marginalised children and young people have increased access to:

- Creative, cultural, and recreational opportunities and spaces for children across Ireland.
- Opportunities for social inclusion and building confidence among children through arts, sport, and play.
- Playful learning opportunities for infants.

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 with disabilities, 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 aims to meet the outcome: 'Vulnerable or marginalised children and young people have increased access to creative, cultural, and recreational opportunities and spaces for children across Ireland.' which is part of the Creativity and Play Strand.

What types of proposals are eligible for funding?

There is a strict eligibility criteria for projects under each strand.

- Projects that align with one of the outcomes of your chosen strand, outlined above.
- Projects that benefit vulnerable or marginalised children and young people outlined above.
- Projects that employ models of best practice.
- Projects that empower the children and young people who are benefiting from the work.
- Projects that create strong impact for the children who will benefit and the wider community.
- Projects that start no earlier than June 2026 and run for 12 months.

If you are applying for the Impact Grant Round, there are additional requirements:

- Projects that show innovation.
- Proposals that have an impact on the organisation applying and there is potential for systemic change as a result of the project.
- Proposals that outline factors that ensure the success of the project.

What types of proposals are not eligible for funding?

Ineligible projects include:

- Solely ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc.
- Advocacy or lobbying
- Large-scale building work or procurement
- 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.
 - Please note, [Community Foundation Northern Ireland](#) is managing the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal for charities in Northern 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.

What are the priorities for the Grant Round?

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal is a very competitive grant round, so strong applications that meet one or more of the priorities below will be prioritised for funding. These apply to all of the strands for this grant round.

- **Authentic child and youth voice**
 - Children have a legal and moral right to be heard in matters that affect them. This principle is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children should have a say in decisions impacting their lives.
 - Applications that integrate child and youth voice into the design and development of their programmes will meet this priority.

- **Enriching play and playful pedagogies**
 - Utilising play as a vehicle for services is key to ensuring the success of that service, particularly for younger children. It allows for holistic development for the children, build critical thinking, communication, teamwork, social and emotional growth.
 - Applications that utilise play or playful pedagogies to enhance their programmes will meet this priority.
- **Agency in nature**
 - Research shows the huge value in green spaces and children being able to access and enjoy them regularly. Green spaces such as parks and playgrounds improve physical health, where children have free agency allows for social and cognitive development, fosters teamwork and conflict resolution. Access to green spaces at a younger age, sets healthy habits for later in life.
 - Applications that integrate outdoor spaces and nature in their programmes or services will meet this priority.

Some proposals are being prioritised in this grant round, is it worth applying if my project doesn't meet the priorities?

We have indicated in the criteria that strong proposals that meet certain requirements will be prioritised. We anticipate that this grant round will be very competitive so we encourage applicants to aim to meet at least one of the priorities: Authentic Child and Youth voice, Enriching Play and Playful Pedagogies, Agency in nature.

How long should the project last?

Projects should last no more than 12 months from June 2026 - June 2027.

Does the project need to be for new work?

Your proposal can be for a new project that will be developed or upscaled with the funding or it may be to continue an ongoing project.

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 June 2026 and projects should start in June / July 2026. Projects that are planned to start before June 2026 will not be eligible for funding.

Proposals that are to continue current, ongoing Toy Show Appeal projects are eligible, however, any funding from this year's Toy Show Appeal should be allocated to the project from June 2026 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 2027.

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 13th March 2026**. 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 beginning of June 2026. We expect successful organisations to start work in June / July 2026.

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 for 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

This is an additional and optional element to the Impact Grants Round so there is no requirement to submit an Expression of Interest. 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 as well as 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 Expressions of Interest 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.
- IDs and proof of address for 2 Board or Committee members.

- A bank or credit union account statement header.
- The organisation's most recent, and the previous year's signed annual 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 2024 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 Progress and Outcome Report during the project. Progress reports will be due by the end of January 2027 and Outcome reports will be due in July 2027. RTÉ may require additional reporting alongside this. This will be detailed in the Grant Agreement prior to payments being made.