

# RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2026

## Grant Round Overview

### 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 RTÉ Toy Show Appeal

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal was established in 2020 to raise funds for Irish children's charities through the televised Late Late Toy Show. Since then, more than €30 million has been raised to support charities across the Island of Ireland.

In today's world, children and young people are facing increasingly complex and interconnected challenges that they can't face alone. Children's charities provide vital services that provide support, build skills, and foster resilience to empower children and young people to tackle these issues. However, factors such as socio-economic circumstances or discrimination create barriers for children and young people to access the support they need.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal responds to these issues:

*Inspired by children, we work to bring the magic of the Late Late Toy Show to every child in Ireland. By funding essential support, health, wellbeing, play and creativity we aim to change children's lives for good.*

Last year €4.9 million was raised and distributed in 169 grants to support more than 1 million children and their family members all across the island. Thanks to the continued generosity of the Irish public, this year the Appeal raised over €4,700,000 which will be distributed through the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal Grant Rounds in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal will ensure that children and young people across the Island of Ireland who need help, can access high-quality services when they need them. With a focus on those that are most vulnerable and marginalised, these services will support, empower and build resilience so children and young people can tackle the challenges they face now and in the future.

The grant round will centre around three themes:

- Addressing Essential Needs
- Improving Wellbeing
- Creativity and Play

## Timeline for the Grant Round

Opening Date for applications:	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Closing Date for applications:	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Grants will be awarded:	June 2026
Work should begin:	June/July 2026

Community Foundation Ireland is hosting a "how-to" webinar at 11am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February to support charities in their application. This covers information relevant to both the grant rounds including the criteria, the application form and how to align with the Toy Show Appeal's priorities. The webinar is recorded and can be watched back on our website.

We recommend that applicants attend this webinar to find out more about the

criteria and how to apply. The webinar will be recorded and published on our website if you cannot make it on the day.

## Eligible Organisations

Only eligible organisations will be funded in this grant round. This includes:

- Organisations that are registered with the Charities Regulator.
- Charities that have a total annual income of a minimum of €20,000.
  - *Charities with a total annual income of €20,000- €500,000 should apply to the Community Grants Round*
  - *Charities with a total income of €500,000+ should apply to the Impact Grants Round.*
- 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 local branches across the country should coordinate their application through their Head Office. Only one application per charity will be accepted.

## Ineligible Organisations

Ineligible organisations include:

- Organisations that are not registered with the Charities Regulator.
- Charities that do not regularly work with vulnerable or marginalised children and young people.
- Charities with an annual income of less than €20,000.
- Universities or state bodies.
- Sports organisations.

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

## Available Funding

Children and family charities working at local, regional and national level can apply for a grant in the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. The grant round is split into three levels based on the total income of the applicant: Community, Impact and Transformative.

### Community Grant Round

Children's charities that have an annual income of €20,000 - €500,000 must apply for the Community Grants Round.

In the Community Grants Round, grants of €10,000 - €20,000 will be awarded, and applicants should apply for funding within these brackets.

- [Click here for the Community Grant Round criteria.](#)

### Impact Grant Round

Children's charities that have an annual income of more than €500,000 must apply for the Impact Grants Round.

In the Impact Grants Round, grants of €20,000 - €50,000 will be awarded, and applicants should apply for funding within these brackets.

- [Click here for the Impact Grant Round criteria.](#)

### Transformative Grants

Charities who are eligible for the Impact Grants Round may also choose to submit an Expression of Interest application for a Transformative Grant. This application should be to scale up the Impact Grant application. There is more information on applying for a Transformative Grant in the Impact criteria linked below.

- [Click here for the Transformative Grant Round criteria.](#)