



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Call for Pilot Place-Based Philanthropy Projects

Information Booklet

May 2025

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Introduction

The Programme for Government commits to progressing Ireland's first National Philanthropy Policy. The purpose of the policy is to deepen understanding and knowledge, creating an enabling environment and accelerate engagement with philanthropy in Ireland for social good. The policy contains 21 actions, divided between the following strands: communications and awareness raising; data and research; stimulating and incentivising philanthropy; government and sectoral partnership; and capacity building.

To advance this commitment, the Department of Rural and Community Development is launching a call for place-based pilot projects which will provide funding for a small number of projects that will test how collaboration between philanthropy, the Government and communities can deliver community led initiatives to address local challenges. Initial funding of €600,000 over three years is available under this call.

Programme Objectives

The aim of this call for place-based pilot projects is to support projects that:

- Address identified local needs or challenges – social, economic or environmental.
- Promote understanding and collaboration between philanthropy and government (both national and local government).
- Test innovative, co-funding approaches to addressing key social issues.

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- Bring together resources in a collaborative way to benefit the community in a defined geographical location.
- Promote partnership and collaboration between communities, philanthropists, local government and local organisations.

- Trial a co-funding approach to gain insights to inform future initiatives.

Support Available

Successful projects will be funded on a 50:50 match funding basis, up to a maximum of €50,000 per annum over three years. The total maximum funding available for a project over the three years is €150,000.

Eligibility Criteria

This call is open to community development organisations or community-based groups that can demonstrate the following:

- A confirmed philanthropic funding partner.
- A track record and established presence in their area.
- Support from relevant local authorities.
- Collaboration with relevant local stakeholders.
- Project ready to commence in Q3 2025.

Applicants are only permitted to submit one application to this call.

Type of Projects Funded

The call will provide funding to projects that will bring together resources to deliver existing or new initiatives in a collaborative way to benefit the community in a defined geographic area.

The project must address local needs or challenges and be able demonstrate strong community involvement, cross sector collaboration and sustainable outcomes.

Pilot projects may utilise a number of approaches to addressing needs or challenges at a local level. The funding will cover programme delivery costs including salary costs for

qualified/experienced community development workers. Capital costs, such as building related costs, are not eligible for funding under this call.

Application Assessment

This call for funding is a competitive process. Applications will be assessed and scored in according with the marking scheme set out in Appendix 1. Applications must meet a minimum standard of 70% of the available marks in each category in order to be selected. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be assessed.

While the primary criteria for the selection of projects will be based on the extent that they meet the assessment criteria, final selection will also take into account the funding available for this call and geographic/regional spread.

Evaluation and Monitoring

As part of the application process, applicants will be required to complete an Evaluation and Monitoring Plan setting out the plan to measure the projects impact. Approved projects will be required to submit a progress update to the Department every 6 months. On completion of the project, a Project Completion Report setting out the key insights and learnings must be completed by the applicants and submitted to the Department.

Timeline for Call

The deadline for the receipt of applications is 12pm **on 16th June 2025**. **Applications should be submitted electronically** to **philanthropy@drcd.gov.ie** using the official application form.

All applications will be acknowledged. It should be noted that applications must be completed in full before submission. Incomplete applications will be omitted from the

process. Applications submitted after the deadline for applications will not be considered.

It is expected that an announcement of successful projects will be made before the end of July 2025. Any queries in connection with this call can be emailed to

Appendix 1 Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Max marks available
Relevant Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant experience, track record and achievements of the applicant in community work and collaborative philanthropy projects. 	20
Collaboration and Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of endorsement and partnership with key local actors and sectoral authorities. Role of each project partner. 	15
Fit with Programme Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well the project would meet the aims objectives of the programme. Relevance to target communities. 	15
Strength of Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of proposal and approach showing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of need. How the planned activities will improve services. Clear attainable and measurable targets. Anticipated outcomes for participants. 	20
Corporate Governance and Financial Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequacy of governance arrangements to manage scale of funding and financial viability of the organization. Capacity to manage the project in line with public funding principles (Appendix 2). Capacity to collect, maintain and report monitoring information. 	10
Value for Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of the outcomes for the proposed budget Clear and well-structured budget Costs are in line with market norm. 	10
TOTAL MARKS AVAILABLE	100

Appendix 2 Public Funding Principles

All funding awarded under this call will be managed in accordance with the rules set out in Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014 - Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds.

Recipients of public funding are required to adhere to the four overarching principles applying to the management of public funds namely *Clarity*, *Governance*, *Value for Money*, and *Fairness* as set out below.

<p>Clarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the purpose and conditions of the funding and the outputs required • Apply funding only for the business purposes for which they were provided • Apply for funding drawdown only when required for business purposes • Seek clarification from the grantor where necessary – on use of funds, governance and accountability arrangements. 	<p>Governance</p> <p><i>Ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversight and administration of funding • control and safeguarding of funds from misuse, misappropriation and fraud • accounting records which can provide, at any time, reliable financial information on the purpose, application and balance remaining of the public funding • Accounting for the amount and source of the funding, its application and outputs/outcomes.
<p>Value for Money</p> <p><i>Be in a position to provide evidence on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective use of funds • value achieved in the application of funds • avoidance of waste and extravagance 	<p>Fairness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage public funds with the highest degree of honesty and integrity • Act in a manner which complies with relevant laws and obligations (e.g. tax, minimum wages) • Procure goods and services in a fair and transparent manner • Act fairly, responsibly and openly in your dealings with Grantors