

Heart of the Community Grant Round 1 | March 2026

Questions from Webinar 16 March 2026

You ask how much funding we received in 2025. We don't have our audited accounts for 2025 yet, so the audited accounts will be for 2024, but funding amount is 2025, is that okay?

Yes, most recent available accounts are acceptable.

If we apply in this round and are unsuccessful, can we apply again in September (as an arts & culture organisation).

Yes.

Will the presentation be emailed to attendees afterwards?

No, this webinar won't be circulated. However, the questions from it, and the FAQs will be available on the website.

Does the portal accept hyperlinks? Will they be clickable in the form?

Yes, it can accept hyperlinks.

We are not a charity due to the cost of audited accounts.

It might be helpful for you to review the criteria on www.charitiesregulator.ie.

Hello, do you mean by Budget 2026, how much we need to survive excluding the application as the project could not go ahead without it?

The request for the budget in 2026 is to give us an idea of your income forecast.

Would informal community learning programmes, such as peer-led skills sharing and wellbeing learning within Men's Sheds, be considered eligible under the Education priority?

Yes. You do not need to be an education organisation but just be very clear that your activities tie back to a priority area.

Would innovation include scaling or strengthening an existing community model, such as developing a national framework for learning and community initiatives across Men's Sheds?

Yes, it can include scaling of an existing model just ensure you provide evidence of impact so far and the benefits of scaling the project.

·Would you mind clarifying the suggestion of submitting multiple amounts?

We ask for you to include multiple amounts so we have an idea of what impact a smaller award may have for your organisation. As award amounts will vary it is better to give us as many suggestions as possible.

For national organisations supporting a network of community groups, would funding that enables programme delivery across multiple locations be considered eligible?

Yes, as long as the national organisation meets all the eligibility criteria.

Can the funding support organisational capacity such as programme coordination staff time, in addition to direct programme delivery costs?

Yes. As long as the impact of the funding has a positive impact in the priority areas of the grant round.

Is it acceptable to outline broad cost categories in the application and finalise exact designations after award?

Yes.

Would applications that demonstrate impact across a large community network (e.g., multiple Men's Sheds) be viewed positively within the assessment process?

Yes. We are looking for organisations to highlight their impact throughout whether that is a large community network or in a smaller cohort of people. We are looking for positive progress towards goals.

Our community group has been established for 60 years, we are not a charity or CLG, we are a non-incorporated constituted group, how does work re eligibility as a group 'excluded from registration', we have never applied for exclusion. our turnover is less than 60,000 k p.a. We do have accounts unaudited from 2025.

Details for this can be found on the Charities Regulator website. An organisation must self-determine whether they should be a registered charity.

[Registering a charity | Charities Regulator](#)

What level of monitoring and evaluation detail are you looking for in applications for organisational investment grants?

We are aware this will vary depending on the size of the organisation. If you can provide any information on how you monitor your work and measure success within your organisation.

Would uploading a short Theory of Change or programme framework strengthen the application for this grant round?

If it supports the application, please do submit it. However, there is no pressure to do so. The application on its own is sufficient.

When talking about financial year, or 2026, do you mean calendar year 1 Jan to 31 Dec as in ROI or 1 April to 31 March?

It is whichever applies to your organisation in terms of what information is available for you to provide.

Did you mention that an organisation can be a CLG?

An organisation can be a CLG but you must meet all other eligibility criteria.

What attachments need to be sent with your application?

For due diligence you will need to submit a copy of your governing document and your most recent financials. All other attachments are optional.

Will there be a Health round this year?

There is no specific health round this year.

Do you tend to prioritise completely new initiatives, or can projects that build on and expand existing work be just as competitive?

Both options are acceptable. For expanding work, please ensure you provide evidence of success to date or if a pilot project some baseline data of why the pilot was developed.

Is the grant round open to national Irish reg charities?

Yes, as long as they meet eligibility criteria.

For the optional video, does it need to be about the whole organisation, or could it focus on a particular area of our work to give a sense of impact? Or can there be more than one.

There is only space for one link to be included. It can be either so can be your organisation as a whole or if you want to focus on the work that ties to the priority area that's also great.

We're a CLG who are currently applying for charity status. Can we apply?

No. Organisations in the process of applying for charity status are currently not eligible.

Would amateur sports groups that have a specific aim e.g. LGBT inclusion be better suited for the innovation or culture round of applications?

Your organisation can apply to both rounds. If you have an application ready now, please feel free to submit.

If in cross border partnership, while we are a registered charity does partner have to have same status

If is the organisation applying that the eligibility and due diligence applies to.

You mentioned salary so that is obviously based on hours and amount needed for the qualifications/education

Yes, if you can provide details of hours and amounts for salary but also how the role will have impact in one or both of the priority areas.



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