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Heart of the Community Fund 2026 | Arts and Culture

September 2026

FAQs

Heart of the Community Fund is The Ireland Funds' flagship grant programme, providing flexible funding to non-profit organisations addressing local needs and strengthening communities across the island of Ireland.

For this grant round, we will accept applications from organisations on the island of Ireland working in two areas: (i) Arts and Culture Organisations, and (ii) Community organisations with art-based programmes.

- **Arts and Culture Organisations:** This funding strand is intended for organisations that work in the promotion, preservation, and development of all art forms. Organisations applying under this stream may apply for core funding to support their ongoing activities and operations.
- **Community organisations with art-based programmes:** This funding strand is intended for organisations seeking grants for a community-based arts project. Applicants must provide details of how the funding will be used, and all expenditure must relate directly to the programme or project for which funding is requested.

Your organisation must be working within these areas to apply for funding.

- **What is the application period?**

The Ireland Funds will accept applications for this grant round from **Monday, 14 September until 5pm on Friday, 2 October**. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

- **What awards are offered?**

Heart of the Community Fund | Arts and Culture will award grants of between £/€5,000 and £/€25,000 to non-profit organisations.

The Ireland Funds Grants Team will assess your application and determine the most suitable amount to award your organisation within the range available.

At least \$500,000 will be distributed through this grant round.

- **How do I apply?**

Apply online through our portal [here](#) from **Monday, 14 September until 5pm on Friday, 2 October**

- **Do you accept applications from unincorporated groups/associations?**

No, Heart of the Community Fund is not open to unincorporated associations or community groups that do not have any legal structure.



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For ROI: Organisations must be a registered charity unless considered an excluded body by the Charities Regulator. For further details please visit the [Charities Regulator website](#).

For NI: Organisations must be a CIC, or a registered charity or have applied to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. For further details, please visit [The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland](#).

- **Can an organisation apply if it is relatively new and doesn't have a full set of accounts?**

New organisations may submit an **unredacted** bank statement in place of a financial statement, together with a cash-flow forecast showing projected income and expenditure for the year ahead.

- **Can we apply as a regional, affiliate, partner or semi-independent unit of a larger organisation?**

Only one application will be accepted per organisation. Regional, affiliate, partner or semi-independent branches of a larger organisation should coordinate internally to ensure that no more than one application is submitted.

You must submit management accounts for your unit as part of the assessment process. A maximum of one unit per larger organisation may receive funding.

- **Do you require supporting documents to be submitted?**

Yes. We require a governing document for your organisation, most recent financial statements, and a bank statement header.

- **What do you require for due diligence reviews on organisations?**

As part of The Ireland Funds' due-diligence requirements, applicants must be registered charities unless exempt. They must also have:

- Governing Document (i.e. Memorandum & Articles of Association; Trust Deed; Constitution).
- Financial Statements (Audited or Unaudited Accounts are equally accepted).

- **What activities are NOT funded by Heart of the Community Fund?**

- Grants to Individuals
- Medical expenses
- Animal welfare activities
- Commemorative structures
- Advancement of religion/faith or religious beliefs
- Political activities and promotion of individual political candidates

- **Does my application have to be submitted electronically?**

Yes, all applications must be submitted electronically through our online grants portal which can be found here: irelandfunds.org

We do not accept applications via post or email.



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- **Will I receive confirmation that my application has been received?**

Yes, you will receive an email confirming The Ireland Funds has received your submitted application.

- **My application was rejected. Can I reapply and when can I reapply?**

Organisations may submit only one application per grant round but may apply to future rounds if they meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

- **How soon will I know if I am successful?**

We aim to notify all applicants of the outcome by mid November, 2026. The exact date will depend on the volume of applications received.

Please ensure you have marked grantsinfo@irelandfunds.org as a 'safe sender' to ensure you receive the notification email into your inbox.

- **How is the grant paid?**

Grants are paid through Electronic Funds Transfer.

- **How long do we have to spend the money?**

Grants must be spent within 12 months of payment, as set out in the Grant Acceptance Contract. An Impact Report is due nine months after notification, by which point most of the funding should have been spent.