

Heart of the Community Grant Round 2

September 2026

Questions from Online Webinar 28. Sep.2026

- **Q: Is there a way we can print out the document for review before submitting?**

A: Yes, there is a word version of the application form on the website to assist with drafting replies. However, you have to submit the final application online via the portal.

- **Q: Even though the grant is open to supporting Arts & cultural organisations in general - is it better if the applications are around a targeted project or on the contrary does it go against the application if it is project related?**

A: There is no weighting between the priority areas - so apply as best fits and suits your organisation.

- **Q: The Arts and Culture Organisations strand no longer has a maximum annual turnover threshold? We noticed that the previous years' turnover threshold does not feature in the guidelines this year.**

A: There is no threshold this year. We felt that given the sector, and nature of turnover, it wasn't necessary for this grant round.

- **Q: We are a company limited by guarantee who applied for charity registration 6 months ago but haven't had a response yet and have been told this could take another 6 months. Are we eligible to apply?**

A: Unfortunately, organisations who are in the process of applying for charity status are not eligible to apply.

- **Q: Under Arts and Culture can you apply for a combination of operational costs and project-based costs on the one application?**

A: Yes, you can but we suggest you make it very clear of what exactly you are applying for. However, you must select which funding strand you are applying for as it automatically brings you to a distinct application for that strand.

- **Q: We are applying through a University, College of Arts for an art-based programme which strand would we go for the Arts + Culture Org or Community Organisation with art-based programmes?**

A: if you are an arts-based organisation, that would be the strand you should apply under. As an arts college it would be A&C.

- **Q: If applying through strand 1, can the funding request be for a combination of organisational and programming? or does it need to be one or the other within the strand?**

A: The organisation can choose what is the need it is seeking funding for.

- **Q: We raise funds for Children's Health Ireland who have a dedicated Arts in Health programme which we are seeking funding for, would this still fall under community group with arts programme?**

A: Yes, you can apply under community group. That would be the strand you should apply under.

- **Q: We are an arts and community organisation that is seeking to buy our premises to turn it into a community -owned asset. Very few grant programmes cover these kinds of one-time capital costs. It doesn't expressly prohibit this in your guidelines but i wanted to double check.**

A: We suggest you contact us directly to seek clarity on this. However, this funding must be used within 12 months, and also given the levels it is not intended for capital use.

- **Q: Is language preservation included in promotion of all arts forms?**

A: Yes

- **Q: We are an arts organisation but want to apply for a new arts-based project- which is the best funding strand for us?**

A: If you are an arts organisation, we suggest you apply in funding stream 1 for Arts organisations.

- **Q: If we are a community based CLG seeking funding for an arts-based programme, which strand do we apply under please?**

A: Community group strand.

- **Q: If I am applying for core funding - can you advise what is the best way to approach the question on overview of programme. Is it enough to mention what our organisation does?**

A: You can only apply for core funding under the Arts organisation strand. If this is the case you can describe what your organisation does as a whole.

- **Q: We are a charity that provides art therapy, would we fall under community group with arts programme?**

A: Yes, apply under community group strand

- **Q: Where do you put your budget?**

A: Provide a general budget breakdown under this question in the application:

* What specifically is funding being sought for? [1,000 character limit]

Input your response here

- **Q: Is it possible to use the funding in conjunction with another source of public grant funding to fulfil project goals?**

A: Yes, funding can be used alongside other funding sources for a project.

- **Q: If an arts and culture organisation is applying for core/operating costs, when answering the 'what specifically is funding being sought for' question, would you be awarded funding for specific operating costs e.g. specific apportionment of rent, core salaries etc? Wondering if the core/operating need changes within the year, you could move awarded funds from one heading to another, or if it's awarded on broad basis and the org can choose where to apply it.**

A: A: The funds must be spent within 12 months from payment date. Changes of where the funds are to be spent are approved, TIF should be notified if any.

- **Q: If successful, what is the timeframe for the project/for the drawdown of funds?**

A: It depends on the number of applications received. However, we hope to be able to notify organisations within 2 months.

- **Q: Arts Centre requires a combination of funds for organisational needs and funds for programming needs; can org choose a combination of both within the Arts and Culture Organisation Stream?**

A: Yes, you can.

- **Q: If the application is project based - When can the projects start - when must they finish?**

A: The funds must be spent within 12 months from payment date.

- **Q: Would a community organising making a podcast with beneficiaries about their lives count as 'arts and culture'?**
A: Yes.
- **Q: If we have received funding from an individual donor via The Ireland Funds, but have never received a grant directly from The Ireland Funds, how should we answer the question on previous funding from The Ireland Funds?**
A: The answer to the question on the application would be yes.
- **Q: After notification, how long would a successful org have to spend the grant? We would be hoping for funds towards 2027 activities - is there a cut-off date by which funds must be spent?**
A: The funds must be spent within 12 months from payment date.
- **Q: For orgs with April-March financial year (matching NI statutory funding cycle) should we note anywhere that the financial year is 2026/27 for the finance questions?**
A: Please note the financial year months on the application.
- **Q: If you plan to do a large project, do you need 3 quotes?**
A: No
- **Q: Is a project that is cross-border for example between Derry/Donegal eligible for this fund?**
A: Yes
- **Q: For the outcomes question, could you clarify a little further whether you are referring to the organisation's outcomes overall or specifically relating to the funding sought**
A: For an arts organisation,, we are referring to the organisation outcomes. For a community organisation, outcomes should be project specific.
- **Q: If we are applying for salary costs, should we pin the grant to a specific salary and outline the work of that employee? Or can we spread it across a range of salaries which support the full range of work on the organisation?**
A: We would advise making it specific as possible as this will help with the measurement of the impact of the funding.
- **Q: Although we are called The Churches Trust, we are not a religious organisation and work towards community cohesion and cultural humility and understanding. Are we eligible to apply for this?**
A: Yes
- **Q: For the Community Organisation with art-based programmes, we cannot apply for core/operational costs but only expenses of the programme? In other words, we cannot add staff payroll?**
A: If you apply under community group strand, the funding should be restricted to the art/culture programme/project.
- **Q: We are planning to develop a backstage for our drama group, which requires large funding. is this grant an option for us? is there a time scale for work completion?**
A: Yes. The funds must be spent within 12 months from payment date.
- **Q: Our financial year runs April to March; can we use these figures for the 2026 finance question?**
A: Yes

- **Q: We're part of a large charity with branches nationwide, all using the one charity number. Can you award only one branch? A few may well apply.**
A: Only one branch can apply using parent org charity number.
- **Q: Do we upload the supporting documents e.g. financial statements and governing docs at the time of application?**
A: Yes
- **Q: Our actual event/festival takes place in August 2027, so the focus is on the event and expansion.**
A: August 2027 is ok timeline wise. If successful, grants will be paid between Nov-Dec. Funds should be spent 12 months from payment date.
- **Q: If we are bringing in an international speaker as part of the programme, can this be funded?**
A: As long as all activities take place on the island of Ireland, this is fine.
- **Q: Are we less likely to secure funding if we are based outside of Ireland? Our programme runs in Belfast at the children's hospital.**
A: This is all Island funding stream, organisation applying from Northern Ireland will be treated the same to applications from the republic.
- **Q: We have a number of activities for the year which will cost in excess of 100k. when we mention the funding sought do we spread this across the activities or is it best to ask for one specific area?**
A: We advise providing as many costs as possible.
- **Q: What is difference between the questions about your organisation's core mission and primary focus? Similarly, the difference between the questions of overview of the programme and details about programme?**
A: The mission of the organisation explains why it exists; its core purpose. Within this mission, organisation may have multiple focus areas. These are more specific and focus on the day to day. I would include areas that are most related to arts or culture. 'What specifically is funding being sought for?' is where you include financial details and 'Overview of the programme' is to provide details about the programme, who is it aimed at, what challenge does it address etc.
- **Q: Is the amount of funding granted decided by the panel or should we include a specific ask in the application?**
A: The amount of funding will be decided by panel. Organisations can still outline the amount of funding needed in the application.
- **Q: For the finances, is it the service we work in or the whole organisation we include?**
A: It is the whole organisation.
- **Q: We receive our funding annually from all sources - our 2026 budget is relatively secured at this point, but we have no guarantees for 2027 yet (main funding is awarded in December) - how can we best express this in the application?**
A: For the financial figures, we are requesting information from 2026.
- **Q: How would you advise if community association had just been revived this past January. This means that we do not have historic financials (The previous committee had stopped the community work around covid)**
A: You can submit an unredacted bank statement as financial information.