

Community Recognition Fund 2024

Wexford County Council

Application Process - Summary Terms and Conditions

April 2024



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



**Rialtas
na hÉireann**
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Loch Garman
Wexford Local Community Development
Committee

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



Community Recognition Fund 2024

A. Introduction and Background

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 ('the Fund') aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants ('new arrivals'), including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

€50 million is available under the Fund, and this is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there. Applications can be submitted by a local authority to DRCD across three application windows, the last of which will close on 31st January 2025. Projects must be fully delivered by the end of 2026.

B. Grant Allocations and Rates

The Fund is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there, taking into account both the level of new arrivals and the relative level of new arrivals vis a vis overall population in a local authority area. The amount of funding allocated to each local authority under the Fund is set out in Appendix 1.

Given the nature and objectives of the Fund, the local authority will have discretion to avail of 100% of the costs of the project from the Fund to ensure it is delivered in full.

Applicants (community groups/organisations) should clearly set out in their funding proposal the rate of aid that they wish to avail of for each project, ensuring that the project can be delivered fully based on the funding provided. **Local Authorities must ensure that where rate of aid of less than 100% is sought, the project must be achievable and completed in the timelines given.**

This funding should not be used as a co-funding source for any other scheme operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development or any other Government Department, nor should this funding be used as a co-funding source for any other project funded under CRF 2023.

C. Engagement with Communities and identifying locations

It is **essential** that the funding proposals submitted by each Applicant are developed based on direct engagement with their impacted communities and in consultation with elected representatives, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), and Local Development Companies. Proposals should also be consistent with Local Economic and Community Plans.

The proposal form must also demonstrate that the funding is targeted at, and specifically invested in, those communities, villages and towns where the **highest level** of new arrivals are located and where there is a **clear need for investment** identified. This must be clearly demonstrated in the proposal form, so that funding is allocated to the most appropriate projects in the specific city areas, towns and villages where significant numbers of new arrivals are located – proposals which spread projects throughout a municipal district, rural or city area without clearly linking the funding to the specific location of new arrivals and their level of need will not be approved.

The proposal must also demonstrate that the local authority has considered the distribution of funding under the 2023 Community Recognition Fund as part of the allocation of funding and selection of projects under this second iteration of the Fund i.e. the distribution of funding across both the 2023 and 2024 funds combined should reflect where new arrivals are located.

Proposals which do not display adequate levels of community engagement and appropriate targeting of support will not be approved.

D. Eligible Projects

Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026. A minimum spend of 50% of the overall allocation must be incurred in 2025. Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any ongoing operational or running costs.

The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying. Smaller projects cannot be artificially combined to meet the minimum threshold of €50,000 – while the 2023 scheme provided funding for small scale investment in clubs and communities (e.g. for small scale equipment), the focus of the 2024 scheme is on projects of greater scale and impact.

For projects over €200,000 additional information must be provided at application stage giving further details on the needs identified in the location, the engagement and collaboration that resulted in the selection of the location and specific project and the capacity of the community to progress the proposed project in line with the terms and conditions attached to the funding. Please use Appendix 4 for providing an individual detailed business case to support the investment for each project that **exceeds €200,000.**

The maximum of €500,000 can be exceeded in very exceptional cases based on the provision of a business case from the relevant local authority, in collaboration with the proposing Applicant. The business case must outline the rationale for higher funding due to factors such as substantial local needs, a particularly strong concentration of arrivals in one location, low levels of previous investment in the impacted area and/or other specificities of the area; the local authority will discuss this with DRCD in advance of making a business case

Sample type of projects eligible for funding include but are not excluded to:

- development, enhancement or refurbishment of community or cultural facilities including play areas, walkways, parks, community/sensory gardens, allotments, and recreational areas;
- development, enhancement or refurbishment of local club and sports facilities including facilities such as community swimming pools, changing rooms, toilets, digital aids such as score / information boards etc.;
- enhancement to school/parish facilities which are open to use by all of the community after school hours;
- purchase of equipment for local clubs, festivals, community events and organisations e.g. music, arts or sports equipment;
- transport infrastructure such as the purchase of community vehicles, bus shelters and attendant information boards; (any vehicle funded must be in good condition and not more than 5 years old)
- projects that help address dereliction and/or wider local economic and community development objectives;
- purchase and refurbishment of vacant or derelict buildings for community use where a clear need is identified.
- Purchase of land and associated works for the development of community facilities such as play areas/ MUGAs or town parks/ community gardens, recreational areas etc. **(purchases must only be administered by the local authority).**

It is intended that this list offers considerable flexibility for Applicants to develop proposals that reflect the needs of their own communities and projects that will deliver real medium-long term benefits to those communities. However, in the course of developing their proposals, it is open to Applicants to discuss with the Local Authority funding proposals outside the scope of the above list.

Where the maximum funding levels under this scheme may limit the potential to purchase and renovate a targeted building, the local authority may wish to purchase the vacant building under this fund and its' subsequent renovation can form part of an application under another scheme such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Summary of Conditions:

- Targets new infrastructure and facilities for entire community, with scale and impact.
- Minimum grant €50K; Maximum €500K.
- 100% rate of funding available.
- Capital costs only. Operational and running costs ineligible.
- Priority for areas with highest percentage of population of BTPs and IPAs, 'new arrivals'.
- Projects situated in towns or villages that do not have high levels of new arrivals will not be deemed eligible.
- Co-funding for or by other public funding streams ineligible.
- Co-funding for existing CRF2023 project(s) ineligible.
- Projects must be fully delivered by the end of 2026.
- Proof of direct consultation and engagement with local community's identified need required.
- Purchases of land/property must only be administered by the local authority.
- Additional business case required for projects €200K+.
- Non-compliance with the conditions as outlined herein or in the funding agreement or non-compliance with any additional stipulations agreed during contract negotiations may result in the requirement to refund part or all of the funding awarded by Wexford County Council.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

Appendix 1 – Funding Allocations

Local Authority	CRF 2024 Allocation
Carlow County Council	€1,171,621
Cavan County Council	€1,155,190
Clare County Council	€2,608,408
Cork City Council	€1,214,022
Cork County Council	€2,014,691
Donegal County Council	€3,391,917
Dublin City Council	€2,140,584
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	€765,487
Fingal County Council	€1,538,573
Galway City Council	€1,702,897
Galway County Council	€1,303,230
Kerry County Council	€3,946,095
Kildare County Council	€830,007
Kilkenny County Council	€867,987
Laois County Council	€1,012,996
Leitrim County Council	€2,212,974
Limerick City And County Council	€1,400,378
Longford County Council	€893,486
Louth County Council	€1,317,173
Mayo County Council	€2,428,540
Meath County Council	€1,188,066
Monaghan County Council	€914,972
Offaly County Council	€1,055,308
Roscommon County Council	€1,002,434
Sligo County Council	€1,742,899

South Dublin County Council	€2,249,663
Tipperary County Council	€1,465,434
Waterford City And County Council	€1,436,394
Westmeath County Council	€1,740,646
Wexford County Council	€1,703,377
Wicklow County Council	€1,584,550
Total	€50,000,000

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