



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

2021 Community Development Pilot Programme *Call for Proposals*

Information and Guidance
4th March 2021

Introduction

The Programme for Government commits to “*Introduce, on a phased basis, a number of projects similar in approach to Community Development Projects*”.

To advance this commitment, the Department of Rural and Community Development is announcing the introduction of a pilot Community Development Programme which will consist of up to eight projects promoting an autonomous approach to community work with marginalised communities. Initial funding of €1m for 2021 has been secured. It is expected that the programme will continue for three years. Continuation of the Programme or expansion beyond the three years will be dependent on the evaluation of the Programme and on availability of funds.

Aim and Objectives of the Programme

The aim of the Community Development Pilot Programme is to trial community development initiatives that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, and promote human rights.

The objectives of the Community Development Programme are to:-

- develop community development responses to a range of social, economic and environmental concerns;
- facilitate an empowering collaborative approach to building relationships and undertake cooperative initiatives between marginalised groups, mainstream services and decision-making bodies; and
- showcase and profile the benefits of an autonomous approach to community development in relation to existing, new and emerging issues.

The focus in the first instance will be on community development organisations working or seeking to work at local level to address issues in areas such as¹ racism (including Travellers and Roma), domestic or sexual violence, migration, gender, people living in direct provision or seeking international protection, climate action and just transition.

¹ This list is indicative and not definitive

Eligibility Criteria

Those eligible to apply are community development organisations or groups that have a proven track record in community development based on the values outlined in *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector* and the *All Ireland Standards for Community Work*, and that

- have an established presence in their area and are able to demonstrate their achievements to date;
- work to address the issues experienced by marginalised communities;
- have a track record in collaboratively developing cross-sectoral initiatives;
- can demonstrate a commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including those with a climate action/just transition focus;
- can demonstrate how additional supports could help build their capacity and reach;
- can demonstrate good practice in corporate governance and financial management.

Funding

An indicative allocation of €120 - €140k P/A is anticipated per organisation. Whilst initial funding has been secured for 2021 only, we would welcome applications that are provisionally planned for three years. The funding will cover the employment of qualified/experienced community development workers; programme costs; research and analysis; periodic review and evaluation. Capital costs, such as building related costs, will not be covered.

Governance

A sub-group of the Cross-Sectoral Group² on Local and Community Development (CSG) will be established to take responsibility for the Programme at national level. Membership of the subgroup may be expanded to include individuals with specific expertise.

² The Cross-Sectoral Group (CSG) was established to assist in developing the *Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024* and the group was reconstituted in 2019 to support the implementation of the Strategy. The CSG is made up of representatives from Central Government, Local Government, community development, local development, the community and voluntary pillar, academia and community and voluntary stakeholders. Amongst the membership are the Government Departments, Local Government, the ILDN, the Community and Voluntary Pillar, Community Work Ireland, National University of Ireland, and the PPN structure.

An appropriate monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact and inform decisions on the future design and delivery of the Programme will be established. The subgroup, in overseeing the pilot, will design the evaluation process, and monitor and evaluate the performance of the pilot projects in accordance with the framework. Feedback will be provided to the CSG Subgroup on request. The success of the projects will inform the level of ambition to continue with and expand the programme.

At a local level, the Local Community Development Committee/Local Authority (LCDC/LA) will have oversight of the administration of funding in respect of the project(s) in their functional area. They will also provide support by introducing the organisations to other potential funders, helping to integrate the organisation with other bodies delivering similar services and facilitating networking. The pilot projects will present to their relevant LCDC for information purposes in the initial 12 months of funding and as agreed locally thereafter.

Application Assessment

Successful projects will be selected by a panel established for that purpose chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development and comprising, representatives from Pobal and nominees from Community Work Ireland and the ILDN.

Applications will be assessed and scored in accordance with the marking scheme set out below that reflect the pilot programme aim, objectives and eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be assessed or marked. Applicants must meet a minimum standard of at least 70% of the available marks in each category in order to be selected.

While the primary criteria for selection of projects will be based on the extent to which they reflect the programme objectives, as well as the quality of the application, consideration will be given to a number of other issues such as geographic/regional spread and the range of issues covered.

Award Criteria	Marks Available
<p>Relevant Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant experience, track record and achievements of the applicant in community work and developing collaborative initiatives on a cross-sectoral basis with local stakeholders 	30
<p>Corporate Governance and Financial Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequacy of governance arrangements to manage scale of funding and financial viability of the organisation Capacity to manage the project in line with public funding principles (outlined overleaf) Capacity to collect, maintain and report monitoring information 	10
<p>Fit with Programme Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How well the project would meet the objectives of the pilot How sustainable the impact of the proposed project would be for the target groups on completion of the pilot 	20
<p>Strength of Proposal</p> <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 How well the proposed engagement strategies with selected target groups are displayed The quality of project outcomes 	30
<p>Value for Money</p> <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 norms 	10

Pilot Programme Evaluation

An evaluation framework for the programme will be developed and will be evaluated against the following:-

- levels of engagement of the target communities with the project structures, processes and decision-making at all levels of the project;
- the overall impact of the project on the issue or community;
- extent and range of responses to issues identified and pursued;
- extent of the increased access to and outcomes from mainstream services;
- levels of innovation in collaborative initiatives.

This Statement should be brought to the attention of every grant receiving body

If you are in receipt of Public Funding you should

<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

Timetable for Call

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
1	Launch of Call	Thursday 4 th March, 2021
2	Deadline for submitting applications	12 noon, Wednesday 31 st March, 2021
3	Notification of results to successful organisation	Friday 30 th April, 2021

How to apply and Application Form

Proposals should be submitted to **cdp@drctd.gov.ie** using the attached application form by **12 noon Wednesday 31st March**. Any queries in connection with this Call for Proposals process can be emailed to cdp@drctd.gov.ie