



Begin Together Fund

2020

About Bank of Ireland's Begin Together Fund

The Begin Together Fund provides valuable investment for community initiatives that will make a real difference in towns and villages across the island of Ireland. We want to get behind those trying to make the lives of others in their communities better by improving their financial, physical and mental wellbeing.

About The Community Foundation for Ireland

The Community Foundation for Ireland is a grant-making and donor services charity that makes grants to not-for-profit and voluntary groups working in communities throughout Ireland. The Community Foundation for Ireland acts as the administrator for this grant scheme on behalf of Bank of Ireland.

Interested organisations are invited to complete the online application form **before 4pm on Tuesday, March 31st**.

All submitted applications will be reviewed; shortlisted applications will be put to a public vote. The public vote will take place online and in Bank of Ireland branches over a four week period in May/June.

Timeline:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Open for Applications | 20 th Feb 2020 |
| • Closing Date for Applications | 31 st March 2020 |
| • Public Voting Round | May/June 2020 |
| • Grantees Notified | July 2020 |
| • Payments to Grantees | July 2020 |
| • Projects to be complete | 1 st July 2021 |
| • Outcome Report | August 2021 |

Purpose of the Fund:

The Begin Together fund will support new and existing project-based activities with grants of up to €5,000 (or the sterling equivalent) for local, not for profit groups working to improve the **financial** and/or **physical** and/or **mental wellbeing** of the communities they serve **across all counties on the island of Ireland**.

Eligibility

Applications will only be eligible if:

- A) The applicant organisation has an annual income **less** than €500,000.
- B) The proposed project addresses at least one of the strands of 'wellbeing' listed below.

Preference will be given to applications that:

- C) Serve disadvantaged communities or minority groups.
- D) Will have an ongoing impact within their community.
- E) Address more than one strand of wellbeing.

Begin Together Fund- Application Criteria

Applications are welcome from charities and not-for-profit community groups working in communities that address one or more of the following strands of wellbeing:

Strand 1 - Financial Wellbeing: projects that provide people with the skills and knowledge to access services and manage their money with confidence.

Projects should either:

- 1. Strengthen the capacity of individuals to engage with a range of available digital services in order to help manage their money in a digital age.
 - 2. Enhance people's financial knowledge through financial education programmes.
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Strand 2 - Physical Wellbeing – projects that aim to increase levels of physical activity and improve overall physical wellbeing within their local communities.

Applications must demonstrate a clear link with one of the areas outlined below:

- 1. **Participation** – projects that encourage inclusive participation of individuals in physical activity.
 - 2. **Promoting Ability** - projects that encourage individuals to become more physically active at a level appropriate to their ability *e.g. projects supporting older people, young children, long-term inactive cohorts, to become more physically active.*
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Strand 3 - Mental Wellbeing: projects that promote positive mental health within their local communities.

Applications must demonstrate a clear link with one of the areas outlined below:

1. **Active Participation** – projects that encourage the active participation of individuals in their own mental wellbeing. Projects should aim to promote increased independence/resilience in relation to an individual's mental health.
 2. **Promoting Access** – projects that improve the ability of individuals to access mental health and wellbeing services either i) directly, through the provision of supports or ii) indirectly, through education/awareness raising programmes.
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All applications will be judged on the following:

Strategic Fit

The proposed project must serve an identified need, work with the target group identified and fit with the fund's objectives. Applicants must demonstrate why their organisation is best placed to lead the project.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how their project links to

- I. **A strand (or strands) of wellbeing.**
- II. **One of the outlined focus areas within the respective strand(s).**

Realistic Budget

The proposed project must include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timelines.

Reach

The proposed project must not be internal to the organisation and must have a wider community reach.

Measurable Results

Applicants must be prepared to track project activity throughout the duration of the project and will be asked when applying to provide 2 key outputs and an outcome that will demonstrate impact/change at the end of the project.

Active Participation

Active participation of communities is a key aspect of the Begin Together Fund. Applications must outline how the proposed project involves the persons who are the target of the project's actions, ensuring they have the opportunity to actively participate, gain confidence and enhance their ability/self-reliance as a result of the project.

The Fund Will Not Cover:

- Applications from profit-making enterprises.
- Applications from individuals.
- Applications for projects with a total cost **less than €3,000.**
- General appeals e.g. flood or natural disaster appeal.
- Animal charities i.e. where the primary beneficiary is an animal. Exceptions include projects that involve animals, however the primary beneficiary are individuals.
- Applications that promote religious or political activities.
- Applications to cover core costs such as rent, salaries etc.
- Costs to cover trips abroad.
- General running or ongoing costs of an organization.
- Retrospective funding (work that has already taken place).
- Work taking place outside the island of Ireland.
- Applications where the project has the sole purpose of promoting sport, however projects **can** incorporate sport as a means of programme delivery and must have a clearly identifiable **charitable objective.**
- Applications seeking funding exclusively for sports equipment. However, sporting equipment **can** be included as an element of a project.

Applications seeking funding for the improvement/refurbishment of facilities e.g. changing rooms **are not eligible.**

Applicant Requirements:

- Only one application will be accepted per organisation.
- Applications must be from community and voluntary groups that possess charitable aims and are not-for-profit.
- Applicant organisations must have an annual income **not more than €500,000.**
- Applicants will be asked to state if their organisation would benefit from volunteer support from Bank of Ireland staff.
- Organisations working with cohorts under the age of 18 will be required to produce a copy of their Child Protection Policy.
- Organisations working with vulnerable adults will be required to produce a safeguarding policy or 'vulnerable adults' policy.
- Organisations will be asked to submit a copy of their founding documents (e.g. Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association). **Organisations that do not provide required documents will not be considered.**
- Organisations will be asked to provide a copy of a recent bank statement - This is for account verification only and all financial transactions may be redacted before submission. **Organisations who do not possess a bank account in the name of their organisation and/or who do not submit a copy of the statement as requested will not be awarded funding.**
- Proposals must include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales.
- Applicant projects must take place **only** after the funding has been awarded i.e. July 2020 and must be complete within the following 12 months.

Reporting & Promotional Requirements:

- All successful applicants will be expected to acknowledge the support of Bank of Ireland on any materials associated with the grant.
- Successful applicants will be expected to provide imagery and a short report during/at the end of the grant period, which may be used for promotional opportunities, with your permission (Further details on this will be provided to successful applicants).

Applying to the Begin Together Fund - What you will need

Documents:

A copy of your organisations:

- **Governing documents** (Memorandum of Articles and Association/Constitution/Rulebook/Mission Statement).
- **Bank details** – transactions can be redacted. The purpose of submitting this document is to confirm the details of your organisations bank account.
- **A Child Safeguarding policy** – where your organisation is working with people under the age of 18.
- **A Vulnerable Adults' policy** – where your organisation is working with vulnerable individuals.

Other:

- **A clear plan** – before beginning the application form, please take some time to develop your idea/refine the details of your existing project. This will save you time when filling out the application form and help you answer some of the more detailed questions.
- **Approx. 30 minutes** – although the time needed to complete the application form will vary depending on many aspects (such as the level of detail provided the complexity of the project etc.), we would suggest that you allocate a minimum of 30 minutes writing time in order to complete the application form.

The Process:

1. Organisations submit their application via the online application form.
2. Applications will be reviewed by the Community Foundation for Ireland Team.
3. A shortlist comprised of the highest scoring applicants will be developed.
4. All shortlisted applicants will be put to a **public vote** – this will take place over a four week period both online and in Bank of Ireland branches.
5. Projects that receive the highest number of votes during the public vote will be deemed successful.
6. Due diligence of all successful candidates will be completed.
7. Upon meeting all due diligence requirements, funding will be distributed to successful candidates.

How to Apply:

Use the online application form by clicking on the link below (step 2)

1. Check you meet the **criteria** (as outlined above), ensure that the timeline of your project fits within the funding period
2. You must apply via our online application form. Applications should be submitted via this link **before the deadline** of 16:00 on Tuesday, 31st March 2020. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

3. If you are unsure about a particular area please consult the **FAQ document**. If your question remains unanswered, please contact us at info@foundation.ie.

If you have any questions that are not covered in the FAQ document, please contact the Grants and Donor Services Team at info@foundation.ie or 01 8747354.

Closing Date: **4.00pm on 31st March 2020**

Late applications will not be accepted after this time.

NOTE: Your application will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement e-mail, please contact us at info@foundation.ie or on **01 874 7354**.



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