



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Community Support Schemes 2026

Closing Date: 23rd January 2026 @ 4pm

Galway County Council recognises that local communities are one of our greatest resources, and in recognition of this has developed the Community Support Schemes to provide financial assistance to Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations for a diverse range of events and projects. This year, we have added 2 additional Support Schemes to promote environmental development projects and sports participation and development, and we hope you will find these beneficial.

Purpose:

The purpose of the support schemes is to encourage and enable community and voluntary groups to actively participate in the development of their communities, the funding is intended to support projects and events that improve all aspects of local areas and deliver benefits to the wider community.

How much is funded?

Funding will be awarded under the Community Support Schemes subject to the applicant meeting the minimum match funding requirement – the maximum grant which will be awarded under any Support Scheme will generally not exceed €3,000, unless specified in the scheme criteria. Groups must hold a Bank or Credit Union Account in their legal name. As the funding represents a contribution towards the overall cost of projects/events, applicants must provide an up-to-date bank statement showing sufficient funds to cover the balance. Applicants must declare any additional Council, agency or government funding associated with their activities.

Who can apply?

Any community and voluntary group and non-profit making organisation who is registered as either a Voluntary Non-Profit Making Organisation or Charity by the Revenue Commissioners and carry out community initiatives which are of public benefit to the wider community (Schools can apply under Heritage and Irish Language Promotion Activities categories). Applicants must operate within the administrative area of Galway County Council. Groups whose activities span City and County must clearly indicate the proportion of activity in each. Organisations must have no outstanding debt owing to the Council.

Individual persons or individual businesses are not eligible to apply for funding. Organisations that receiving substantial core funding from other Government Departments are generally not eligible to apply unless the project/activity is outside the core funding and contributes to Council objectives e.g., Green School activities contributing to Tidy Towns activities, extra-curricular activities of Schools promoting the Irish language.

Is it important to be a member of the PPN?

Priority will be given to members of the PPN, therefore, please ensure your Group is registered at <https://www.galwaycountypnn.ie/registration-form/>

What types of proposals are considered?

Proposals fall under five Support Schemes aimed at promoting sustainable economic, community, cultural, environmental and sports development. Check each scheme's online form for specific eligibility criteria. To ensure that the limited financial resources available are used to the maximum benefit of the community at large, the following general conditions apply to all proposals:

- Projects/Events must be beneficial to the wider community by promoting wellbeing and quality of life for all citizens or by enhancing the area for residents, visitors and tourists, residents, visitors & tourists.
- Equipment purchases are eligible only if directly related to the proposed project/event.
- Routine operational costs such as wages/utilities/insurance are not eligible.

Quotations:

All applicants must submit a minimum of 1 quotation for each expenditure item up to €3,000 for which grant funding is sought (quotes may be emailed, written or from a catalogue). The Council encourages applicants to '**SHOP LOCAL**' where possible to support the local economy.

How to apply:

The award process will be as follows:

- All applications must be made online enclosing all compulsory supporting documentation.
- Applicants may make a maximum of 1 application per Support Scheme.
- All applications must be received on or before the closing date – no exceptions will be made.
- All applications must comply with the eligibility requirements - ineligible applicants will be notified.

Assessment Process:

Demand usually exceeds available funds. Applications will be rigorously evaluated by senior staff based on budget, quality and priority. Recommendations will go to the Council for approval, and notifications will issue immediately afterwards.

Notification of Success:

Successful applications will receive a Letter of Offer (Form A) which forms the contract between the Council and applicant, and this must be signed and returned within 14 days from the date of offer, otherwise, the Council reserves the right to re-assign the grant aid.

Conditions for Project/Event Delivery:

Applicants must comply with the Terms and Conditions relating of the Community Support Scheme (see end of document)

Grant Drawdown:

Funding is allocated on an annual basis and cannot be carried forward. You must carry out the project or proposal and submit your drawdown application within 30 days of the event, or in the case of projects/works, no later than 31st October (unless agreement to defer grant has been approved for exceptional circumstances). Your drawdown application must include the following:

- Completed Project Completion Report (Form B)
- Official Invoices on the headed paper of the supplier detailing the expenditure items and excerpt from your Bank Statement showing cleared payments.
- Photographs of events held, OR, before and after photos of improvements to amenities/facilities
By submitting photos, the applicant is giving permission to the Council to use the image(s) for promotional purposes, and confirming they have the permission of the photographer and any people who appear in the photo.
- Proof of acknowledgement of Galway County Council funding for the event/works.
- E-Tax Clearance Certificate is required for applicants who have received grant-aid of €10,000 or over in a calendar year.

Freedom of Information:

The Freedom of Information Act applies to all records held by Galway County Council.

Data Protection:

It is the responsibility of each Group/Organisation to ensure they comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. By submitting their application, applicants agree to the processing and disclosure of the applicant's information by Galway County Council, and to other third parties if required, for Fund administration, reporting, evaluation and audit purposes; and successful applicants further consent to the disclosure of this information (e.g. name of successful applicant, amount of award, event details, etc.) by these parties in connection with the marketing or promotion of the Grant Scheme. Galway County Council agrees to employ appropriate measures to keep applicants' data safe and secure; to prevent its unauthorized or accidental disclosure, access or alteration; and to ensure that personal data will be processed only in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Data Protection legislation.

Corporate Governance:

Grantees will be required to comply with the highest standard of transparency and accountability as documented in Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014 - Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds <http://circulars.gov.ie/pdf/circular/per/2014/13.pdf> The overall principle is that there should be transparency and accountability in the management of public funds, in line with economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The circular outlines, for example, that grant recipients should not dispose of publicly funded assets without prior approval.

Child Protection:

All grantees working with under 18s are required to demonstrate full compliance with statutory child protection obligations. This includes confirmation of adherence to the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance 2017, and Tusla Guidance. Grantees must have a current Child Safeguarding Statement in place, which clearly outlines procedures for managing identified risks, investigating allegations, implementing safe recruitment practices, providing staff training (including non-discrimination and diversity adaptation), facilitating reporting to Tusla, maintaining a list of mandated persons, and appointing a relevant person under the Act. A comprehensive risk assessment must be completed and implemented, supported by appropriate child protection policies and procedures. Furthermore, grantees must ensure that vetting disclosures, in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016, have been obtained for all employees and volunteers engaged in regular work or activities involving children or vulnerable persons.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

A. Community Amenities (min. 10% match funding)

The aim of this category is to enhance outdoor community amenities and green spaces. Funding will be prioritised for amenities that are freely available to the wider community, where a defined need exists, and where accessibility and inclusivity have been considered as part of the sustainable development of the public amenity.

Who can apply and how much will be funded?

Volunteer-led Community Groups who carry out enhancements to community play and recreation areas which are freely available to the wider community. A maximum grant of €3,000 will apply.

What can be funded?

Projects to improve accessibility and usage for all ages and abilities at Community Playgrounds, Public Parks, Community Walkways, Community Gardens/Allotments, and Nature Trails or outdoor facilities available for general use in the local community.

B. Tidy Towns Activities in Public Spaces (min. 10% match funding)

The aim of this category is to support the efforts of Tidy Towns Groups in improving the visual appearance of public spaces through volunteer-led works and projects. Funding will be prioritised for defined projects, i.e., projects addressing an issue raised in the Judging Report, a locally identified problem site/building, or planting projects implementing local Landscaping/Pollinator Plans developed by an Ecologist or Landscape Architect (where these Plans are not in place, funding will be prioritised for development of same). Funding towards development of high-quality Template Maps by a local Engineer/Architect will be especially welcome in light of this being a specific issue raised by Tidy Towns Judges in Judging Reports.

Who can apply and how much will be funded?

Tidy Towns Groups who enter the National Tidy Towns Competition. A maximum grant of €3,000 will generally apply.

What can be funded?

Equipment and projects responding to issues identified in the Judging Report and contributing to the National Competition Judging Categories:

- streetscape & public places, tidiness & litter control, works at residential streets or housing estates, works at approach roads or greening of streets/lanes.
- green spaces & landscaping, nature & biodiversity, environmental sustainability.

All Tidy Towns Groups must complete the Form for “Voluntary and Community Activities on Roads, Amenity Areas and Other Areas in the charge of Galway County Council” and submit the completed Form to their Area Engineer - [Application form- Voluntary and Community Involvement Scheme pdf.pdf](#)

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

A. Arts Act Grants (no match funding requirement)

The aim of this category is to provide financial assistance to voluntary arts groups/organisations to carry out an arts activity or project within their community. Funding will be prioritised for activities/projects which best meet the objectives of the Arts Act 2003 by:

- a) stimulating public interest in the arts
- b) promoting knowledge, experience, and practice of the arts, or
- c) improving standards in the arts throughout the county.

Who can apply and how much will be funded?

Community & Voluntary Arts Groups/Organisations. A maximum grant of €2,500 will apply. Applicants should note that funding is provided as a contribution towards costs, rather than covering the full costs of a programme/event.

What can be funded?

The “arts” means any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes:

- Literature: community-writing groups and workshops with input by full-time or part-time writers; readings by full-time or part-time writers. Special projects, e.g., publications, undertaken by community writing groups.
- Visual Arts: classes and workshops in the visual arts with input by professional artists / art teachers. Special projects, e.g., exhibitions, undertaken by community art groups.
- Music: music education projects (but not individual tuition fees), classical and choral recitals; writing, recording, and performing of new popular music and musical theatre material.

- Traditional Music and Dance: classes and activities designed to pass on the tradition; performance by new and established traditional musicians; workshops and classes in traditional dance.
- Drama: theatre in education; drama workshops; writing and performing of new work.
- Film & Electronic Media: showing of non-mainstream films; activities designed to widen participation in film, video, and electronic media.
- Community Arts: activities such as mural painting, community drama, community participation events, etc.

Funding will not be provided for capital works, equipment, insurance/operational or running costs, or events which are funded under separate funding sources, e.g., Culture Night.

B. Heritage Grants (no match funding requirement)

The aim of this category is to support schools, voluntary/community and heritage groups/organisations to undertake projects which will be of benefit to the community. Funding will be prioritised for activities and projects which:

- a) Gather and share knowledge of local heritage.
- b) Increase awareness, appreciation, and participation in heritage activities.
- c) Manage and protect our heritage.

Who can apply and how much will be funded?

Heritage Groups, Tidy Towns Applicants, Environmental Groups, Community Groups, Schools. A maximum grant of €1,500 will apply, although most awards will be less than €500.

What can be funded?

Examples of funding for projects/events related to natural, built, or cultural heritage include:

- Surveys and Mapping of Graveyards, Heritage Sites, Wildlife, etc. in a local area.
- Funding for Biodiversity Action Plans, Pollinator Plans, Invasive Species Action Plans, etc.
- Events / exhibitions / publications promoting the preservation and protection of local built, natural, and cultural heritage.
- Workshops and training aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills of local heritage and promoting participation in heritage activities.
- Heritage Week and Biodiversity Week activities, e.g., walks, talks, etc.
- Oral Heritage Recordings.
- Conservation of heritage collections and objects, including documents, and conservation, planning, and habitat management works to restore important wildlife habitats, etc.
- Funding for works to remove invasive species such as rhododendron from woodland.
- Funding for heritage gardens, trails, etc., and associated signage and information boards
- Equipment that is directly associated with any proposed project.

Provision or maintenance of Memorials, Plaques, Busts or Statues will not be considered for funding.

C. Irish Language Promotional Activities (no match funding requirement)

In the context of our European heritage, Irish is the oldest spoken literary language in Europe (20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010 – 2030). In the context of national policy, funding will be prioritised for activities and projects which:

- a) Increase the knowledge of Irish.
- b) Create opportunities for the use of Irish.
- c) Foster positive attitudes towards its use.

Who can apply and how much will be funded?

Community and Voluntary Groups/Organisations, Business Representative Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Sports Groups, Youth Groups, Schools. A maximum grant of €1,000 will apply, although the majority of awards will be less than €500.

What can be funded?

Examples of projects are:

- Funding for research on specific Irish language heritage, e.g., placenames, townlands, etc.
- Initiatives aimed at strengthening Irish as the main language of communication in the Gaeltacht.
- Community workshops / classes to promote use of Irish in communities, e.g., to encourage businesses who wish to offer a bi-lingual service to their customers, to assist voluntary organisations who wish to increase their use of Irish.
- Irish-language based activities and events held through the Irish language, e.g., community events or cultural, social, leisure and sporting activities run through the medium of Irish (the Council's Irish Language Officer must be invited to the event).
- Seachtain na Gaeilge activities and other events which celebrate our culture and heritage through the Irish language during the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

A. Burial Ground Improvement Works (min. 30% match funding)

The Council operate an annual Burial Ground Maintenance Grant Scheme for groups who work voluntarily to clean-up and maintain their local burial grounds. Galway County Council's Public Liability Insurance covers the liability of these groups for grass-cutting, planting, purchase of tools, equipment and materials used for ongoing maintenance in Council-Owned Burial Grounds. The aim of this Burial Ground Improvement Works Scheme is to facilitate works which are outside the remit of the annual maintenance grants.

Who can apply?

Burial Ground Maintenance Committees or other local development groups.

What can be funded?

Works which improve accessibility and safety, for example:

- Laying of pathways - it is important that any finish on pathways between graves are of a permeable finish to permit drainage, whereas internal roadways can be a tarmac finish.
- Installation of seating - seating can be provided at perimeters where space permits but should not be installed on pathways where it may cause an obstacle. Applicants should ensure that quotations include costs for plinth and installation.
- Safety works such as improving entrances/exits/parking or small-scale repairs to boundary walls or fencing.

How much is funded?

- The support available is 70% of total costs subject to a maximum of €8,000.
- A minimum of 30%, or the balance of total costs, must be match-funded by the community and the applicant must provide proof of match funding at application stage.

Specific Terms & Conditions:

1. All projects will be delivered through Galway County Council's Environment Department to ensure compliance with health & safety criteria and approval processes for recorded monuments, etc.
2. Applicants must provide proof of match funding at application stage, and if successful, will be required to transfer monies to Galway County Council prior to commencement of works. The Council will then arrange works with, and payment to, the successful contractor.

3. Applicants must seek quotations from competent Contractors, i.e., who have Public Liability and Employers Liability Insurances and up-to-date Health and Safety Statements/Training. Contractors will be required to satisfactorily complete a Health & Safety Competency Form prior to engagement by Galway County Council (SF08 Competency Assessment Form attached for information purposes).
4. Applicants must comply with public procurement requirements, i.e., 1 quotation for works up to €5,000 and 3 quotations for works over €5,000 (excluding VAT).
5. All project proposals must be capable of being completed within the calendar year.
6. Priority will be given to projects in active/open Burial Grounds.
7. Only one application is allowed per burial ground.
8. If the scheme is over-subscribed, priority will be given to project proposals that demonstrate a clear need for repair and a strong potential to improve the appearance, accessibility and safety of the Burial Ground.

How to apply:

Complete the online form & submit with photographs of project area, quotations, Bank Statement showing match funding on hand.

B. Environmental Improvement Works (0 - 30% match funding)

The aim of this category is to assist Tidy Towns groups to tackle the main causes and components of litter or graffiti in their town or village and implement sustainable measures to remedy these blackspots. Applications must show an awareness/education element to be considered for funding.

Main Causes of Litter:	Main Components of Litter:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passing Pedestrians - 39.4% 2. Passing Motorists - 20.2% 3. Retail Outlets - 9% 4. Gathering Points - 7.2% 5. Places of Leisure/Entertainment - 5.1% 6. Fast Food Outlet - 5.1% 7. Schools / School Children - 4.2% 8. Bus Stops - 2.9% 9. Fly-Tipping/dumping - 2.6% 10. Bring Banks - 2% 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cigarette-related - butts - 49.5% 2. Packaging - takeaway - 19% 3. Food-related - chewing gum - 8.7% 4. Sweet-related - wrappers - 8.1% 5. Paper items - ATM receipts- 7.3% 6. Deleterious - dogs, needles, syringes, nappies - 2.7% 7. Vaping-related litter - 2%

National Litter Pollution Report 2024

Who can apply?

Tidy Towns Groups or other groups who carry out local clean-ups and environmental works in the public realm and have appropriate public liability insurance cover for this purpose.

What can be funded?

Applicants are encouraged to identify their specific local problem sites and bespoke solutions to tackle the main causes of litter or graffiti. Some examples of sustainable solutions are:

- Clean it and screen it - install screening or fencing at problem areas to combat further littering.
- Landscape it out - plant native trees and shrubs to replace a litter/graffiti blackspot through a community planting day. Visit www.pollinators.ie for information and advice.
- Paint over it - paint walls/murals to combat graffiti issues through a community painting day with advice/support from a local artist.
- Monitor it - remove a hedge to promote passive surveillance at a problem seating/picnic area.
- Adopt it - engage with residents or a local group to sustain efforts to keep an area litter-free and purchase litter pickers/bags/gloves to help "Adopt a Spot" or "Adopt a Bring Bank".

- Green the Dogs - provide doggie bag dispensers and promote the Green Dog Walker Scheme where dog walkers commit to cleaning up their mess (branded hi-vis available from Environmental Awareness Officer).
- Bin the Butts - run a Cigarette Butt disposal campaign to encourage responsible disposal (if proposal includes providing a cigarette butt disposal unit for a specific business/facility, match funding up to 30% will be expected).

Items which will not be funded include CCTV, painting of buildings, murals which require planning permission (on gable wall or front façade of building or other permanent structure), or any structural works at National Monuments sites.

How much is funded?

It is intended that a maximum grant of €1,500 will apply per project and a maximum of 1 project will be funded per town/village. Applicants should note that this scheme is intended to tackle small blackspot areas/sites - funding will not cover large planting or upgrade projects more suited to the Community Amenities category.

How to apply:

Complete the online form & submit with photographs of project area, 1 quotation per item, and e-mail or note from Area Engineer agreeing to proposed project.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION/DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

A. Sports Participation & Development Grants (no match funding)

The aim of this category is to support local sports clubs and community groups in delivering inclusive, sustainable, and impactful programmes. The goal is to increase participation in sport and physical activity, particularly among underrepresented groups, while fostering community engagement and healthy lifestyles. The key objectives are to:

- Increase Participation among women and girls, older adults, people with disabilities, disadvantaged communities, young people and new communities.
- Support club development through volunteer training and programme delivery
- Promote inclusivity by removing barriers to participation.
- Enhance community engagement via local partnerships and events.

Who can apply and how much will be funded?

- Be based in the administrative area of Galway County Council
- Be a “not for profit”, volunteer-led sports club or organisation.
- Sports clubs affiliated with a Sport Ireland-recognized National Governing Body (NGB).
- Community groups delivering physical activity programmes.
- Disability sports organisations.
- Voluntary groups promoting sport locally.

How much is funded?

Small grants of up to €1,000 to assist clubs and community organisations in implementing programmes that:

- Encourage participation in sport and physical activity
- Target low-participation groups
- Promote inclusivity and accessibility
- Strengthen community connections through sport

What can be funded?

- **Eligible Costs:** Programme delivery expenses (venue hire, coaching fees), small-scale equipment purchases (bibs, cones, balls, sensory equipment for inclusion of people with disabilities, first aid kits), coach and volunteer training.
- **Ineligible Costs:** Running Costs (insurance, utilities, affiliation fees), personal sports equipment (jerseys, training wear), foreign trips, playgrounds.

Application and Assessment Process:

Apply via Galway County Council's online Submit grants system and include proof of Public Liability Insurance, bank statement in group's legal name, 1 quotation per expenditure item. If the scheme is over-subscribed, applications will be prioritised based on:

- Impact on participation particularly amongst Older Adults, Women and Teenage Girls, Men, People with Disabilities, Disadvantaged Communities and Minority Ethnic Communities.
- Sustainability of the programme
- Evidence of collaboration with local partners
- Budget Feasibility
- Compliance with Galway County Council procurement and insurance requirements.

If successful, applicants must submit a short report on programme outcomes, evidence of expenditure (receipts/invoices), participant numbers and feedback/testimonials, at drawdown stage.

TOURISM, FESTIVALS & EVENTS SUPPORT SCHEME

A. Large Scale Tourism Festivals & Participative Events (min. 20% match funding)

The aim of this category is to support high-quality, creative festivals and events that attract visitors to County Galway, boost tourism.

Key Focus:

- Bring in domestic and international tourists.
- Add social, cultural, and economic value.
- Improve the visitor experience and fit with Galway's Tourism Strategy.

Funding under this category (Regional Festivals & Participative Events funded by Fáilte Ireland) will be allocated to Festival and Participative events that best drive tourism and economic activity in County Galway. The fund targets events attracting domestic and international visitors, delivering a Calendar of Events with social, cultural, tourism and economic benefits to the county. To be considered for funding, applicants will be asked to provide details demonstrating the following:

Key Characteristics:

- **Audience Reach:** Attracts visitors from outside the county or region (e.g., national or international attendees).
- **Economic Impact:** Generates significant tourism revenue (e.g., hotel stays, local spending).
- **Marketing & Media:** Professionally marketed, often with national media coverage.
- **Partnerships:** May be supported by Fáilte Ireland, national bodies, or regional tourism offices.
- **Scale:** Larger budget, more extensive programming (multiple venues, days, or strands).
- **Strategic Fit:** Aligns with regional development goals (e.g., cultural tourism, economic growth).

Who Can apply:

- General festivals (literary, historic, traditional culture, family-focused)
- Arts, Music & Theatre
- Food & Drink

- Business & Education

What can be funded?

- Marketing - the cost of marketing activities with a local, regional, national, and international reach. This may include advertising, public relations, digital marketing, and eligible costs may include the cost of branding of the location during the event.
- Programming and Production Costs – the cost of activities/events included in the festival programme.
- Development - feasibility studies, training, consultancy costs for branding or audience research, may be covered once it is clearly of long-term benefit and or/raises the profile of the event nationally or internationally.

What cannot be funded:

- Purely commercial events with limited tourism appeal
- Agricultural shows, countryside fairs
- Spectator-based sporting events
- Circuses, carnivals, Christmas fairs and markets

B. Small Scale Festivals & Events (min. 20% match funding)

In this category you can apply for one of the following:

1. Local festivals (20% match funding) (max. grant €3,000)

Delivery of small tourism-focused festivals and events under the Galway County Council's Tourism Festival Funding Programme. The key objective of this fund is to provide support to local and community event organisers and activities/projects which will drive visitors to county Galway.

- **Audience Reach:** Primarily serves local or county-wide audiences.
- **Community Engagement:** Led by local groups or arts organisations.
- **Economic Impact:** Modest, mostly local spending.
- **Marketing:** Promoted locally (e.g., social media, local press).
- **Scale:** Smaller budget, fewer events or venues.
- **Focus** Supports local arts, heritage, or community development.

Various types of Festivals & Events will be considered for funding. However, funding for St. Patrick's Day Events and the turning on of Christmas Lights Events is not eligible. Festivals and events must have a strong focus on attracting visitors to County Galway and should have the potential to be repeated. Must be a minimum of 2 days.

2. Arts Festivals (20% match funding) (max. grant €3,000)

Galway County Council aims to promote and support a diverse range of arts festivals throughout the county. Festivals should be of high artistic quality that are innovative and have a strong emphasis on public engagement, delivering quality arts experiences for audiences, to contribute to the development of artform practices, to creatively and imaginatively engage audiences, and to increase opportunities for public engagement. As the local authority works in partnership with the Arts Council, it has aligned this policy closely with their national Festivals framework

What will be Funded?

- **Artist and Performer Fees** – payment for local artists, musicians, or facilitators.
- **Event Programming** – workshops, talks, demonstrations, and cultural activities.
- **Venue Hire** – community halls, outdoor spaces, or temporary structures.
- **Equipment and Materials** – PA systems, staging, art supplies, signage.

- **Marketing and Promotion** – posters, flyers, social media ads, local press.
- **Volunteer Support** – refreshments, training, or small stipends.
- **Accessibility Measures** – ramps, interpreters, accessible facilities.

3. Community Events (20% match funding) (max. grant €1,000)

The aim of this category is to support a diverse range of community-focused events, that encourage participation in local life in an area. A key objective of community-focused events or festivals is to enable people to experience activities in their local area which express their unique cultural identity, generate community pride, and improve their sense of place.

Key aspects include:

- Local Focus: Primarily serves a town, village, or neighbourhood.
- Community-Led: Organised by local groups, volunteers, or informal networks.
- Low Budget: Modest financial requirements, often under €5,000.
- Inclusive: Open to all ages and backgrounds, often free or low-cost.
- Cultural or Social Value: Celebrates local heritage, arts, traditions, or seasonal occasions.
- Limited Duration: Typically one-day or weekend events.
- Non-commercial: Not-for-profit, with emphasis on participation over profit.

What Will Be Funded:

- **Event Programming** – workshops, talks, demonstrations, and cultural activities.
- **Venue Hire** – community halls, outdoor spaces, or temporary structures.
- **Equipment and Materials** – PA systems, staging, art supplies, signage.
- **Marketing and Promotion** – posters, flyers, social media ads, local press.

What will not be funded:

- Commercial or profit-making activities
- Alcohol or hospitality costs (beyond volunteer refreshments)
- Capital works or permanent infrastructure
- Events without a cultural or community focus (e.g., private parties, purely social gatherings)
- Political or religious events promoting a specific ideology or faith
- Retrospective costs (expenses incurred before grant approval)
- Travel abroad or international projects
- Circuses, funfairs, markets, or events primarily for commercial trading