



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



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Kilkenny County Council

Community Recognition Fund 2024

Information Leaflet

The Community Recognition Fund 2024 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 allocation for County Kilkenny is €867,987.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants ('new arrivals'). 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.

Funding can be allocated to projects that will be delivered directly by the Local Authority. Projects can also be delivered via community organisations in a similar manner to the management of the ORIS and CLÁR programmes.

Locations eligible for funding:

Kilkenny County Council is seeking Expressions of Interest for project proposals from communities currently hosting the highest levels of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection or International Protection Applicants. Locations eligible for this funding include:

Kilkenny City
Thomastown
Bennettsbridge
Knocktopher
Freshford
Ballyragget
Castlecomer

Note: Additional towns and villages may be considered for inclusion at a later stage where numbers and locations change during 2024.

Possible projects eligible for funding are:

- 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).

Criteria for funding proposals:

1. The proposal must 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.
2. Projects to be funded need to be capital in nature, deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities in which they are located.
3. Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any ongoing operational or running costs.
4. Projects must be capable of being delivered during 2025 and 2026.
5. The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying.
6. 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.
7. For projects over €200,000, additional information must be provided at application stage, giving further details on the needs identified in the location. Such proposals will need to demonstrate the capacity of the applicant organisation/group to deliver the proposed project in line with the terms and conditions attached to the scheme.
8. A minimum of 50% of the allocation must be incurred in 2025.
9. All applications should include as much information as possible.
10. The funding cannot 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.
11. The funding cannot be used as a co-funding source for any other project funded under the Community Recognition Fund 2023.
12. No works should commence in advance of receiving formal notification of project approval.
13. All applications are subject to National Procurement Guidelines and DPENDR Circular 13/2014, the Data Protection Act (as amended), the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (as amended).

Expressions of Interest should be submitted to community@kilkennycoco.ie on or before **4.00 p.m. Friday 10th May, 2024**. Please state in the subject line of the e-mail – **Community Recognition Fund 2024 Proposal**.

Queries may be directed to:

Email: community@kilkennycoco.ie **Telephone:** 056-7794920