



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



Community Recognition Fund 2024 – Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Information and Guidelines

The Community Recognition Fund was introduced in 2023 by the Department of Community & Rural Development (DRCDD) to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland.

Through the 2023 Scheme, funding of €50 million was approved for some 900 projects in cities, towns and villages nationwide and see information on successful applicants here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/3a749-community-recognition-fund-2023-list-of-successful-applicants/>

Based on the continued impacts on communities throughout the country and the need to support these communities in welcoming new arrivals where large numbers of citizens from other countries are currently living, a further €50 million is being provided under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (dlr) County Council has been allocated €765,487 by the DRCDD to deliver projects over 2025 and 2026, with funding being allocated across 2 application windows as outlined in the table below:

Application	DRCDD Approval Timeline	dlr County Council Call Timeframe
Application Window 1	CLOSED	dlr County Council did not seek applications
Application Window 2	1st August to 30th September 2024	OPEN NOW dlr County Council seeking applications from 16th August – 16th September '24
Application Window 3	1st January 2025 to 31st January 2025	Will open in November/December 2024

Funding:

Funding is targeted to invest in the communities, villages and towns in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown where the highest level of new arrivals are located including Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection or International Protection Applicants and where a clear need for investment is identified.

Projects will not be deemed eligible for funding in areas that do not have high levels of new arrivals and the **areas identified in dlr to be prioritised for funding include:**

- **Ballyogan**
- **Blackrock**
- **Dundrum**
- **Sandyford**

Projects to be funded will be capital in nature and shall deliver medium to long term benefits for the communities in which they are located.

The delivery of the project must be completed over the course of 2025 and 2026. A minimum spend of 50% of the allocation must be incurred in 2025 and eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs. Projects relating to ongoing operational/running costs are not eligible for funding.

The Council is required to reserve a minimum of 20% and may reserve up to 50% of the allocation for expenditure in 2025 for the third allocation window to respond to changing circumstances in communities.

The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying to any single project. Smaller projects cannot be artificially combined to meet the minimum threshold of €50,000. The 2023 Community Recognition Fund provided funding for small scale investment in communities, **however the focus of the 2024 Scheme is on capital projects of greater scale and impact.**

Local authorities have scope to invest the funding based on local needs, as identified through a “bottom-up” approach based on community engagement.

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.

The type of projects eligible for funding under the Community Recognition Fund 2024 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/ Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) or town parks/ community gardens, recreational areas etc. (Purchases must only be administered by the local authority).

The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the full details of the scheme at <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e626a-community-recognition-fund-2023>

See [Community Recognition Fund 2024 Scheme Outline HERE](#)

Amounts approved to applicants will be subject to the total number of applications approved and the overall budget made available to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, which is: €765,487

This funding scheme will provide large capital grants ranging from **€50,000 to a maximum of €500,000** with a requirement that projects are fully complete by **4th September 2026**.

Applications in excess of €200,000 will require a completed business case (see [Appendix A](#))

Use of Data:

The information on this form will be used by the Department of Rural and Community Development for the purposes of processing the application. Further information may be sought by the Department to clarify aspects of the project proposal. The form may be shared with other Government Departments for assessment purposes. The Department may draw on broader, more specialist expertise where required, and such information as considered necessary to complete an assessment of your proposal may be shared with those experts.

The Applicant and the Department are subject to the data protection and privacy laws of Ireland and the EU, in particular the Data Protection Act 2018 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679, known as the EU General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”). Any personal information which you provide as part of the application process will be obtained and processed in compliance with Data Protection legislation.

The Department retains the right to disclose for the purposes of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 or otherwise, in connection with the funded project(s) –

- i. any information supplied by the Applicant to the Department, and
- ii. any relevant data gathered by the Department in administering grant aid to the project, except where the information is considered to be personal or commercially sensitive.

Guidelines:

- Under this scheme, grants will be provided towards large scale capital costs.
- Capital costs incurred for the purchase of equipment are eligible.
- Repairs and refurbishment of existing facilities can also be funded.
- The scheme does not provide funding for operating costs (e.g. the employment of staff, electricity costs, heating costs, etc.) or administrative costs.
- Only expenditure incurred after the date of grant approval will be eligible.
- The grant may cover all, or part of, the purchase or works in question. However, the full cost of the project must be provided on the Application Form.
- This funding cannot be used to fund or co-fund any scheme operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development or any other Government Department or as a co-funding source for any project funded under CRF 2023.

- Projects situated outside of the 4 areas priorities in dlr, namely Ballyogan, Blackrock, Dundrum & Sandyford will not be deemed eligible for funding.
- All projects submitted for funding must be made available and for the benefit of all the community.
- The information supplied by the applicant must be accurate and complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.
- Misinformation may lead to disqualification and/or the repayment of any grant made.
- All information provided in respect of the application for a grant will be held electronically. The Department of Rural & Community Development reserves the right to publish a list of all grants awarded on its website.
- The application must be signed by the Chairperson or CEO/MD of the organisation.
- Evidence of project costings, quotations / Estimates as well as Procurement Plan / Procurement Consultant details are required for this application
- It is the responsibility of each organisation to ensure that it has proper procurement procedures and policies in place (i.e: evidence of minimum 3 quotes sought etc.) as well as including appropriate insurance where relevant.
- Successful applicants will be required to provide evidence that they have engaged the services of a Procurement Consultant or have within their committee an individual with professional procurement experience in advance of formal letter of offer issuing.
- Expenditure, receipts / invoices must be retained and provided to the dlr Local Authority Integration Team (dlr LAIT) who are administrating this fund on behalf of the DRCD, when requested to drawdown funds.
- If applications are successful, further documentary evidence of below will be required:
 - Tax Registration Number / Tax Clearance Access Number / Charitable Status Number
 - Documentary Evidence of Title / Lease for Premises / Property & continued access to site / property for capital allocations
 - Title for Schools where the Minister of Education owns the land.
 - Proof of Planning Application, Permission or Exemption from Planning
 - Other evidence as required
- Publicity guidelines must be adhered on all materials associated with the purposes of the grant in accordance with requirements and appropriate signage must be erected at the location and a template will be provided.
- Generally, no third party or intermediary applications will be considered.
- Late applications will not be considered.

- Applications in any form (hardcopy or e-mail) should arrive not later than the closing date of 5.00p.m, Monday 16th September 2024 via email to integration@dlrcoco.ie / or by post to:

**Community Recognition Fund 2024,
dlr Local Authority Integration Team,
Community & Cultural Development Department, Dún Laoghaire-
Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin,
A96 K6C9.**

integration@dlrcoco.ie / 01 205 4893

- Breaches of the terms and conditions of the grants scheme may result in sanctions including disbarment from future grant applications.
- By completing this Application Form, you consent to the data on the form, as required, being transferred to the Department of Rural and Community Development to enable a decision to be made on your application.
- Successful applicants may be subject to audit by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- Documentation relating to the purchase of equipment or the completion of works should therefore be maintained for inspection for a period of 7 years.

dlr Community Recognition Fund 2024 Information Sessions:

In-person information evenings will take place on the dates below and information on the funding scheme will also be published through the dlr Public Participation Network and other community channels.

- **Tuesday 27th August, Blackrock Library, Blackrock Village, 6.30p.m**
- **Wednesday 28th August, Samuel Beckett Community Facility, Ballyogan, 6.30p.m**

Please confirm your attendance at Community Information Sessions by emailing integration@dlrcoco.ie

Closing date & Enquiries:

Applicants will be advised that all enquiries in relation to the Community Recognition Fund 2024 should be directed to: integration@dlrcoco.ie / 01 205 4893

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