



Irish Youth Foundation – Flagship Fund 2026

The fund opens for applications on **Wednesday 16th September** and closes on **Friday 16th October 2026** at Midnight.

Fund Objective

The Irish Youth Foundation is once again opening our Flagship Fund for 2026. The goal of this fund is to support projects and programmes around the country that are focused on lifting children and young people up and out of poverty. We are primarily targeting organisations that work with children and young people experiencing poverty and marginalisation.

The fund will support work that is aligned with one of the following three focus areas for change:

1. **Educational Attainment** – Programmes that support positive transitions through school from primary to secondary school and/or completion of secondary cycle
2. **Health & Wellbeing** – Programmes that support happy, healthy transitions from childhood through to adulthood
3. **Skills & Employability** – Programmes that support successful transitions for young people to economic independence

The Fund will support organisations working with children and young people in the Republic of Ireland aged between 5-25 years.

Please note that counselling and therapy services will not be eligible for funding.

Who is eligible to apply for funding?

To be eligible the applying organisation must:

1. Be a registered not-for-profit or charitable organisation
 2. Have a bank account set up in the name of the organisation
 3. Be registered in the Republic of Ireland and have been active in Ireland for the past 12 months
 4. Have a child protection policy in place
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What funding opportunities are available?

There are two categories of funding available:

1. Promising Programmes Fund

- Awards of €10,000 - €30,000 will be granted under this category

This fund will support innovative and dynamic projects or initiatives. These projects should be promising, not necessarily proven, and can provide some level of evidence on their effectiveness. We are especially interested in supporting pioneering initiatives to help children and young people overcome difficulty in their lives with innovative and creative thinking and/or collaboration at their core.

2. Grassroots Fund

- Awards of €1,500 - €10,000 will be granted under this category

This fund will provide small grants for grassroots, community based projects to contribute to daily running costs, programme costs or activities.

Term and conditions

- The organisation must be a:
 - Charitable organisation with a registered charity number working within a community
 - or**
 - Not for profit organisation with a bank account, child safeguarding policy and constitution
- The fund is open to organisations working with children and young people aged 5-25 years
- Activities using the fund must be based in ROI
- The organisation must have been in operation for at least 12 months
- Applicants for the fund must be over the age of 18 and have consent to make the application by their project director or Board

Additional

- The organisation must provide a copy of their annual audited accounts/end of year accounts if requested
- The organisation must provide a reference if requested
- An organisation may only apply once within each category



- Successful awardees must be willing to share photos of their project, be willing to do media interviews, speak at events and meet IYF donors if requested

GDPR

- IYF will hold the organisation and project details which you submit with your application form so that we may inform you of future funding applications. We will only share this information with the third parties administering the application and selection process, unless we agree otherwise with you

Please note

- Late applications will not be accepted
- By sending in your application, you accept these terms and conditions. If you do not comply with these terms and conditions, you may be disqualified and may have to return any award granted. In the event that an award is not accepted, or an award is revoked, the Directors may select an alternative awardee

Note on Costs eligible for funding

- The Grassroots Fund will not cover salary costs of an organisation
- 1-1 counselling and / or therapy services will not be eligible for funding under either category

Timeline for use of funding

- If your project/programme is successful in securing funding, we would request that funding is spent within 12 months of receipt, by end of November 2027

Reporting

- Awardees will be asked to submit two progress reports as part of the contract – one at the halfway stage of the programme and one on completion of the programme. IYF will provide full progress reports for completion.

IYF reserves the right to disqualify any entrant, to change the terms and conditions without notice, or to cancel the application process at any stage.

How can projects apply for the funding?

Information on applying can be found at <https://iyf.ie/grants/>



How will applications be assessed?

- The IYF will assess all applications using a scoring sheet to assess their suitability against the funds criteria
- A longlist of applications that meet-the criteria will be put forward to a Grants Committee
- The Grants Committee will review and finalise the shortlist for each category

Promising Programmes Fund

- Shortlisted candidates for the Promising Programmes category may be called for interview
- IYF will conduct due diligence on shortlist before a final recommendation to the Board of IYF
- The final decision on awarding grants rests with the Board of the Irish Youth Foundation
- Successful applicants will be notified and contracts issued

Grassroots Fund

- The committee will agree the Grassroots awardees, once due diligence is completed and subject to IYF Board approval. Awardees will be notified in writing
- The final decision on awarding grants rests with the Board of the Irish Youth Foundation

Please note

Due to the anticipated volume of interest, we regret that we will not be in a position to provide feedback to all applicants. Feedback will only be provided to successful shortlisted applicants.

Queries

For any queries relating to this fund, please contact Aoibheann Murphy on aoibheann@iyf.ie / 085 727 5755
