

Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

Deadline for applications: 1pm, Friday 13th September 2024

About the Fund

The Resilient Cork Fund is an eight-month fund, focused on tackling inequalities, fostering mental resilience, and promoting social inclusion in Cork City and County. By providing financial support to projects and organisations that work directly with marginalised communities, the overarching goal of the Fund is to empower individuals and groups facing various forms of disadvantage. It will do so by enhancing the capacity of organisations that are working with people living at the intersection of discrimination in Cork City and County, with a particular focus on migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, other ethnic minorities and other groups facing discrimination and social exclusion.

You can apply to the Resilient Cork Fund via the [online portal](#) from Monday, 29th July 2024. Please join us for our application clinics on the 22nd of August and the 4th of September at 1pm to find out more about the Fund and answer any questions that you have.

On this page, we tell you about:

1. The Goal of the Fund
2. General eligibility and criteria
3. An overview of the Resilient Cork Fund and what your organisation needs to apply.
4. When can I apply?
5. When are the online help sessions if I have any questions I need answered?
6. How does the fund work?
7. Who can apply – and who should not apply
8. What does the fund offer?
9. How to apply
10. Frequently asked questions
11. Terms and conditions

Heading: 1. The Goal of the Fund

The goal of the Resilient Cork Fund is to support innovative projects or organisations across Ireland to:

Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

- **Tackle inequality, poverty, and social exclusion:** By supporting projects that address the root causes of these issues, the Fund seeks to create a more equitable and inclusive society.
- **Empower disadvantaged communities:** Through targeted funding, the Fund aims to build the capacity of communities to overcome challenges and create opportunities for themselves.
- **Promote social inclusion:** By supporting projects that foster social connection and participation, the Fund seeks to break down barriers and create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all.
- **Improve mental resilience and wellbeing:** Recognising the disproportionate impact of mental health challenges on marginalised groups, the Fund will prioritise projects that promote mental resilience and support.

Heading; 2. General eligibility and criteria

Projects must meet both Rethink Ireland’s criteria and the specific criteria for the Resilient Cork Fund, as set out below:

Rethink Ireland core criteria

- The project must address a critical social issue
- The project proposed must be innovative in an Irish context
- The project must be based on the island of Ireland and must make its main impact in the Republic of Ireland
- The project must have potential and a desire to scale or replicate in Ireland (it may also have potential internationally, but this is not a requirement)
- The project must provide evidence that it is up and running, or has been tested at least in a minimal way
- Applicants must come from an entity that has a not-for-profit legal form, eg:
 - A company limited by guarantee
 - A co-operative
 - Charity
 - And other not for profit legal forms

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Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

Heading: 3. The Resilient Cork Fund

- The project must be based on the island of Ireland and must make its main impact in Cork City or Co. Cork (for this fund projects must be based in Co. Cork or operate under a national organisation with a Cork branch or focus, and aim to have an impact in this region).
- Projects need to target at least one criteria including:
 - Projects must focus on tackling inequality, poverty and/or social exclusion, addressing the root causes of these issues.
 - Projects empowering disadvantaged communities and working to achieve social impact primarily in inequality, poverty and/or social exclusion.
 - Projects that are working directly with marginalised communities or other minority groups to overcome social and economic barriers to their integration in Irish society.
 - Projects aiming to improve mental resilience and wellbeing of marginalised communities and/ or minority groups.

Advantageous criteria - This is not a requirement

In addition to the above core criteria, it would be an advantage if your project/organisation focuses on:

- Projects that are working directly with children and young people that are coming from disadvantaged backgrounds to overcome systemic, social and economic barriers to their integration in Irish society.
- Project/Organisations that use innovative technology, including assistive technology, to address social and economic inequalities.
- Project/Organisations that involve the target community in the planning and implementation of the initiative will be given preference
- Organisations that have a positive effect on Ireland's Green Transition through their activities/interventions. This criteria applies if the organisation tackles issues related to the environment and green transition, such as carbon reduction, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, pollution and/or the just transition.

Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

Heading: 4. When can I apply?

You can apply to the Resilient Cork Fund through our [online portal](#) from Monday, 29 July 2024.

Heading: 5. When are the online help sessions if I have any questions I need answered ?

Please join us for our application clinics on the 22nd of August and the 4th of September at 1pm to find out more about the Fund and answer any questions that you have.

Register for a fund application outline and help session on Thursday, 22nd August, 1pm [here](#)

Register for our fund application outline and help session on Wednesday, 4 September 1pm [here](#)

Heading: 6. How does the fund work?

There will be up to 6 awards available in total. Each successful applicant will receive:

- a cash grant (maximum €65,000),
- mentoring support, and
- placement on Rethink Ireland's capacity building Accelerator programme.

Heading: 7. Who can apply? and who should not apply?

This fund is open to organisations that have a not-for-profit legal form, for example:

- charities

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Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

- social enterprises
- other voluntary organisations.

Which projects cannot apply?

Projects that are not eligible to apply are:

- Projects where research is the primary activity
- Projects seeking funding for capital assets (such as buildings, vans or equipment)
- Projects promoting or aligned with a political party
- Projects that only accept participants of a particular faith or religious denomination
- Projects focused on animal welfare
- Projects based outside the Republic of Ireland
- Projects led by people under 18 years of age
- Projects that are an idea (only) and that have not yet started

Heading: 8- What does the fund offer?

- cash grants up to (€65,000) during the year, to be spent over 8 months
- a business supports package
- a place on our capacity-building accelerator programme
- project performance management

Heading:9 How do we apply?

What is involved in completing the application form?

The application form asks you for information about:

- your project and organisation
- the problem your project tackles
- what makes your project different from others
- who it benefits
- how your project meets the fund conditions
- how you test or evaluate how well your project is doing

Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

- referees
- other details
- It also asks you to send us financial documents (listed below) and a short video (2 - 3 minutes) about your project.

What kind of video do we need to submit?

Providing us with a video is optional. If you do not wish to provide a video you can move to the next question.

If you are providing a video, don't worry - you don't need to produce a high quality or expensive video. You can use a smartphone or tablet. We just want to hear you telling the story of your project in 2 - 3 mins max. Please tell us:

- who you are
- why you are applying for the grant
- the problem/issue your project is trying to solve
- what you are hoping to achieve with the grant.

You can then upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo

Please do not password protect it. You can insert the URL link and the password in the application form.

What financial information do we need to submit with our application?

1. The documents you need to complete depend on whether you are applying in relation to a project within an organisation or you are applying as an organisation as a whole:
 - If applying for a project within a larger organisation, the project's management accounts and the organisation's most recent audited/full accounts are needed.
 - If applying for an organisation as a whole, the most recent audited/full accounts are needed.
2. **All applicants must outline how they intend to use the funds** from Rethink Ireland if successful **and** upload a proposed budget. A spreadsheet template is provided in the relevant section of the application form.

How do we upload our project budget (planned income and expenditure)?

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Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

In the relevant section of the application form you will be provided with a link to a budget template in excel. Please click on the link provided and DOWNLOAD this document to your computer. Then fill in your financial information and save the document with your project's name and then upload it in the relevant section of the application form.

Accessibility

We have tried to make the application process as accessible as possible, but we understand that there may still be some difficulties for applicants.

If you have access needs or are struggling with the application form, please contact resilientcork@rethinkireland.ie

Heading: 10 Frequently asked questions

What can cash grants be spent on?

You may only spend the grant on the project which won the award. Rethink Ireland will agree on the specific use of the grant with you.

You cannot use the grant:

- to pay off debts or buy land, buildings or large equipment items, or
- for subsistence or scholarship payments to beneficiaries.

If my organisation has previously been in receipt of an award from Rethink Ireland, can I still apply?

Yes. If you have previously been funded by Rethink Ireland, you can still apply. Previous Awardees must be able to demonstrate they have performed well on a previous programme and capture in the application form how the new funding being applied for is a logical continuation from the original investment, fitting the new Fund criteria in particular.

If my project is currently in receipt of an award from Rethink Ireland, can I still apply?

Projects on one of our Funds that have cash grant payments remaining before the commencement of the new fund programme are not eligible to apply.

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Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

Organisations on one of our Funds that have cash grant payments remaining before the commencement of the new fund programme are still eligible to apply with a different project and different project lead.

What non-financial supports will be provided to successful applicants?

Rethink Ireland's non-financial supports have been called our 'secret sauce' that help projects to really develop their capacity and sustainability, in addition to the benefit of the cash supports.

Non-financial supports will include:

1. Each Awardee's project lead and potentially other relevant staff will take part in the **Fund's Accelerator Programme**. The Accelerator programme will consist of a series of interactive training workshops on topics such as strategy development, measuring and maximising your impact, communications and storytelling, diversity and inclusion and fundraising.
2. Awardees will also get some **bespoke 1:1 business and capacity building supports** from expert business/non-profit consultants in areas such as impact management, theory of change and strategy development. Supports will be designed in consultation with the successful projects.
3. Awardees will also get access to Rethink Ireland's networks and have the opportunity to develop networks and contacts with the other Awardees of the Fund which are often very valuable in the longer term.

What is expected of Awardees?

The project lead will be expected to take part in the eight-month Accelerator Programme, which includes attending approximately 6 workshops and spending time working 1:1 with a business/strategy consultant. Project leads will be expected to spend a minimum of two days per week working on the awarded project and working towards agreed goals.

Who will decide who wins the awards?

The Board of Rethink Ireland makes the final decisions.

What is the selection process?

The selection process includes the following steps:

Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

- Applications will go through a rigorous selection process (for more information see below).
- Interviews will take place online on the 21st-29th of October (if you are invited to an interview you will be informed in mid October 2024).
- Successful applicants will be informed in early December 2024
- The cash grants will be delivered in two parts - one at the beginning of the Fund and one half way through at the end of the Accelerator and are tied to agreed performance milestones.
- The Accelerator Programme will run for approx eight months from (January to August 2025)
- The Accelerator supports will be designed in consultation with the awardees and reflect organisational/project needs.
- The Fund will close in August 2025.

Can organisations make multiple applications?

Yes, organisations can make multiple applications. These applications must be for different projects.

If my organisation is funded by a government/state agency (HSE, TULSA and so on), are we eligible?

Yes, you can apply if you are in receipt of funding from a government or state agency. However, if your organisation is 100% funded through state sources, you cannot apply to the fund.

How can we find out where we are in the selection process?

We will contact all applicants by email to let them know whether or not they have been shortlisted and invited to interview. Interviews will be conducted via online video link. When final decisions have been made on the successful applicants, we will contact all shortlisted applicants by phone or email to let them know whether they have been successful.

Is this just for large-scale, national organisations?

No, it is not, and indeed we welcome applications from organisations of all sizes once it is a not-for-profit organisation with a legal form (see criteria above).

Can I apply for this funding even though I am still on the ideation stage?

Unfortunately no, this fund needs to see proof that the project is up and running or at least has been tested and shown results in some way.

Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

Can our organisation make more than one application?

Yes, there is nothing stopping your organisation from making more than one application for separate projects. However, due to the competitive nature of this Fund and its selection process, it is very unlikely that we will fund more than one project from any organisation. We encourage organisations to submit one strong application rather than multiple applications.

Is it possible for organisations to collaborate in an application (e.g. a community development organisation and an educational provider)?

They can and one organisation should take the lead. Please refer to the eligibility criteria to ensure that your project is eligible for funding.

Can salary and management/overhead costs be applied for?

Your application may include costs for operations/staff, however, you must be able to demonstrate how this is facilitating you to run the project that you are applying for.

Any further questions?

You can contact the fund team at resilientcork@rethinkireland.ie if you would like more information.

Heading: 11 Terms and conditions of the Resilient Cork Fund

By applying for **the Resilient Cork Fund**, you agree to the following terms and conditions.

Age

You are 18 years of age or older.

Honesty

You have given full and truthful information, both verbal and written, at all stages of the application and selection process.

Eligible to apply – and rights to apply

You are eligible to apply. This means that your organisation meets the criteria for Rethink Ireland.

You have the right to apply. This means that you hold the necessary rights to carry out the project.

Accept these terms and our Privacy Statement

Webtext
Resilient Cork Fund, 2024-2025

By sending in your application, you accept these terms and conditions and our Privacy Statement. If you do not comply with these terms and conditions and our Privacy Statement, you may be disqualified and may have to return any award granted.

Rethink Ireland will hold the personal details which you submitted with your application form. We will only share this information with the third parties administering the application and selection process unless we agree otherwise with you. Please see our Privacy Statement for full details.

Take part in publicity

The Awardees must take part in publicity about the grant. Rethink Ireland reserves the right to publish the names of organisations that are successful in their applications.

If an award is declined or taken back

If you decline an award or if the award is taken back because you did not comply with the terms and conditions, the Board of Rethink Ireland may select an alternative Awardee.

Rethink Ireland's rights

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