

IMPACT FUND 2025

What is the Impact Fund 2025?

Fund Overview

The Impact Fund 2025 is a two-year fund aimed at supporting innovative, community-led responses to some of the most significant and interrelated challenges affecting communities in **Munster and Wexford**. These challenges include persistent social exclusion, limited access to employment and wellbeing supports, and increasing vulnerability to environmental risks.

This €1.1 million fund is created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Parkes Family, Limerick; the Estate of Mary Coffey c/o Pat Toomey, Tipperary; the Hospital Saturday Fund; The Luan Fund; Ed Murphy, Wexford; Turas Nua; The Ireland Funds; and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The fund is open to non-profit organisations delivering innovative projects that foster equity, cultural cohesion, community wellbeing and inclusive participation in sustainable development

The fund offers a package of cash grants and non-financial support for up to eight projects to help them expand and increase their social impact.

This includes:

- A multi-year cash grant worth up to €96,000 (per successful project)
- The non-financial supports include:
 - A place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme.
 - Business and capacity-building supports designed in consultation with successful projects on topics such as strategic planning, impact management, communications, and fundraising.
- Access to Rethink Ireland's networks.

The Rethink Ireland Board will decide how much money to award, which may be less than the amount requested. The final award amount will depend on how many organisations are selected.

You can apply to the Impact Fund 2025 via this [online application](#) from Monday, 24 November 2025 to Friday, 16 January 2026 at 1PM

Want more information? Join one of our application clinics on **Wednesday 10 December 2025** and **Thursday 8 January 2026**. These one-hour webinars will provide information on fund eligibility and the

application process and offer an opportunity to answer any questions you have. Register for an application clinic here:

- **Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 11am – [Register Here](#)**
- **Thursday 8 January at 11am – [Register Here](#)**

For any questions you may have, please contact impactfund25@rethinkireland.ie

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 impactfund225@rethinkireland.ie.

You will need to download the following document to complete your online application:

Impact Fund 2025 -Multi-year Budget Template (compulsory)

The following forms may also help you complete your application:

- **Impact Fund 2025 Fund Application Form (for reference only)**
- **Impact Fund 2025 Fund Webtext (Downloadable Version) (for reference only)**
- **Impact Fund 2025 Management Accounts Template (If you do not already have management accounts)**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

This fund is open to organisations with a not-for-profit legal form, e.g. a company limited by guarantee, co-operative, trust, charity and other voluntary organisations that meet the following criteria:

Eligibility & Criteria

Projects must meet both Rethink Ireland's criteria and the specific criteria for the Impact Fund 2025, as set out below:

Rethink Ireland Core Criteria

- The project must address a critical social or environmental issue.
- The project 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 (1).
- 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 with a not-for-profit legal form, e.g. a company limited by guarantee, a co-operative, a trust or a charity(2).

(1) Eligible projects must be based on the island of Ireland and make its main impact in Munster or Wexford.

(2) Rethink Ireland defines a not-for-profit as any organisation whose constitution indicates it has public benefit purposes and is neither privately owned nor controlled by the State.

The Impact Fund 2025 - Fund Criteria

Eligible projects must align to one or more of the following criteria

- Support the sustainable development of communities in Munster and Co. Wexford through innovative approaches that advance social inclusion and embodying a strong sense of community and wellbeing.
- Provide wraparound supports, including employment readiness supports, skills training, mental and physical supports to enable meaningful participation in society and the economy
- Advance environmental sustainability, for example through biodiversity restoration, circular economy initiatives, climate education, sustainable agriculture, or community-led environmental action (non-exhaustive).

Advantageous Criteria

- Projects that are initiated, designed, and implemented by or in close collaboration with the communities they aim to serve. This ensures responsiveness to local needs, supports community capacity, and fosters ownership.
- Initiatives that address multiple focus areas simultaneously - such as combining skills development with climate education or linking social inclusion with environmental action - will be prioritised. These approaches recognise the interconnected nature of the challenges faced by communities.
- Projects that specifically focus on supporting neurodiverse individuals in the region through innovative services, or programs. This includes initiatives that are led by neurodiverse people or meaningfully consult neurodiverse service users.

Which projects cannot apply?

- 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

Which applicants cannot apply?

- Applicants under 18 years of age
- Commercial companies, sole traders and individuals
- Any staff member from Rethink Ireland and their family members. Family members include siblings, parents, spouses or civil partners or children.
- Individuals
- Statutory or public bodies, companies limited by shares and organisations that are state bodies or agencies that are not registered charities
- Any consultant currently working with Rethink Ireland

If my organisation has previously received 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 organisation/project is currently receiving 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 (June 2026) are not eligible to apply.

Organisations on one of our funds that have cash grant payments remaining before the commencement of the new fund programme (June 2026) are still eligible to apply with a different project and different project lead.

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 in compliance with non-profit legal form [see criteria above].

Can I apply for this funding even though I am still at 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.

Can organisations make multiple applications?

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.

If my organisation is funded by a government or state agency (HSE, TULSA etc) are we eligible?

Yes, you can apply if you are in receipt of funding from a government or state agency. However, if more than 50% of your board is nominated by the Government your organisation is ineligible for funding.

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

Yes, but one organisation is required to take the lead. Please note that if your application is successful, the lead applicant will be required to sign a contract and fulfil all legal obligations associated with the projects performance. Please always refer to the eligibility criteria to ensure that your project is eligible for funding.

What does the Impact Fund 2025 offer to awardees?

- Cash grants of up to €96,000 (per successful project)
- A business supports package
- A place on our Capacity Building Accelerator Programme
- Project performance management
- Access to Rethink Ireland's networks

What can cash grants be spent on?

The cash grant must be spent on the project that won the award and must be ring-fenced for work you are undertaking. The specific use of the cash grant will be agreed between Rethink Ireland and the awardee.

The funding may be used to cover operations/staff costs, but you must be able to demonstrate in your application how this is facilitating you to run the project that you are applying for. Cash grants may not be used to pay off debts or for capital items such as renovations, or for vehicles, land, buildings or large equipment.

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 Accelerator Programme, which includes attending workshops and 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.

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
- referees
- other details

It also asks you to send us financial documents (listed below) a short video about your project (optional) and your organisational/project strategic plan (if available)

What kind of video do we need to submit? Optional

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 award
- the problem/issue your project is trying to solve
- how you will do that
- how your solution is innovative or creative.

Upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo and include the URL link in the application form. Both platforms allow you to upload an "unlisted" video, which is accessible only via the link and not visible to the public.

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)?

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.

What if my organisation does not have a strategic plan?

If your organisation has a strategic plan, we encourage you to share it with us, as it enables us to get a greater understanding of your work. However, it is not mandatory and if your organisation does not have a strategic plan this will not affect your application.

What happens after we submit our application?

1. Applications will go through a rigorous selection process (for more information see below).
2. Interviews will take place online between 4-13 March 2026 (if you are invited to an interview, you will be informed by 20 Feb 2026)
3. Successful applicants will be informed in June 2026 (1)
4. The cash grants will be delivered in two parts across each year of funding. Funding will be dependent on performance against agreed upon goals.
5. The Accelerator Programme will throughout the lifetime of the fund
6. The business supports will be designed in consultation with the awardees and reflect organisational/project needs.
7. The fund will close on Friday 16 January 2026 at 1pm.

(1) This date is tentative and subject to change pending approval of the final awardees

How does the selection process work?

The selection process is very rigorous and consists of a number of stages:

- Stage 1 – Open call for applications 24 November 2025 - 16 January 2026
- Stage 2 – Internal and external reviews of applications 26 January 2026 -19 February 2026.
- Stage 3 – Interviews for shortlisted applicants 4-13 March 2026.
- Stage 4 – Due Diligence/Governance checks on short-listed applicants.
- Stage 5 – Final decision by Rethink Ireland board June 2026.

Who will decide who wins the awards?

All applications will be reviewed thoroughly through a rigorous process. The Board of Rethink Ireland will make the final decision on successful applicants and the number and value of the final awards given.

How do applicants find out where they 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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE FUND

By applying for the fund, you agree to the following terms and conditions.

- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You have given full and truthful information, both verbal and written, at all stages of the application and selection process.
- You are eligible to apply. This means that your organisation meets the criteria for Rethink Ireland and, as described.
- You have the right to apply. This means that you hold the necessary rights to carry out the project.
- 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, 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.
- 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 you decline an award or if the award is taken back because you did not comply with the terms and conditions, the Directors may select an alternative Awardee.
- 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.
- Rethink Ireland staff (excluding board members) and Donor/s, their family members and consultants currently working with Rethink Ireland are not eligible to apply. Family members include siblings, parents, spouses or civil partners or children.
