

Community Solutions to Housing and Homelessness programme

Criteria and guidance notes

The aim of the Housing & Homelessness Innovation & Voice Fund is:

“To support new or improved solutions to some of the root causes of housing and homelessness in Northern Ireland and amplify the voices of people with lived experience of the issues.”

The Fund’s overall objective is:

“To support the development, testing and delivery of new ideas and collaborations addressing the root causes of housing issues and homelessness, working with a range of organisations and giving voice to individuals with lived experience across Northern Ireland.”

The Programme consists of two stages:

Stage 1: Innovation process: Project teams participate in a creative problem solving process to develop their ideas into solution that will address one of the priority challenge areas* to be addressed by this programme.

Stage 2: Seed Fund process: . Project ideas that have been developed as part of the innovation process can apply for Seed Funding of between £15,000 -£25,000 to test or further develop their idea. Projects should commence on 1st August 2023 and be completed by 31st July 2024.

The Fund’s expected outcomes are:

- New collaborations emerge amongst organisations working on housing issues and homelessness.
- New solutions to specific challenges within housing and homelessness are developed and tested, placing the insights and voices of people with lived experience at the centre.
- New opportunities to influence decision making and public services relating to housing and homelessness
- Enhanced knowledge and skills in creative problem solving for participating individuals and organisations

Project ideas should be:

- New and/or adapted idea/s for solutions that will contribute to the overall programme aims and outcomes, specifically addressing one of the priority challenge areas (ie not a continuation of an existing service or campaign
- demonstrate collaboration between two or more organisations and individuals working together on a priority challenge area, or demonstrates how the project will involve at least three or more team members from one organisation working together on a priority challenge area

- be open to development of the idea as part of a creative problem solving process (not a fixed solution you are seeking funding for)

Priority challenge areas to be addressed by the programme:

Project teams must identify a proposed idea for a solution that will address one of the 13 priority challenge to be addressed by the programme. The 13 priority challenge areas are:

- Rented housing
- Mental health and complex needs
- Stigma & Respect
- Hostels and Emergency Accommodation
- Violence against Women and Girls
- Female Homelessness
- Services/Support for males and other victims of domestic violence
- Relationship breakdown
- Agencies not collaborating enough
- Homelessness affecting asylum seekers and refugees
- Homeless affecting LGBTQ+ people
- Homelessness affecting young people
- Early Intervention support

Who can apply for a place on the Programme?

- Charities, public sector representatives and individuals with lived experience are encouraged to form a project team addressing one or more of the 13 Challenge areas. This project team can apply for a place on the programme.
- Project teams should consist of 4-5 people.
- Collaboration is encouraged but not mandatory - so project teams can be a team from one charity/organisation.
- If you wish to apply for the Seed fund, at least one member of the team should meet the eligibility criteria for receiving a grant from the Foundation.

If oversubscribed priority will be given to projects located outside the Greater Belfast area and to projects and organisations with a strong track record of participation and involvement.

Applying for Seed Fund in stage 2

Although applicants for Seed Fund grants are not assessed at this stage, project teams who are interested in applying for a Seed Fund should be aware of the Seed Fund criteria and ensure that at least one member of your team meets the eligibility criteria to receive a grant from the Foundation.

Seed Fund criteria

- A Seed Fund is open only to those organisations and project teams who have participated in the Community Solutions to Housing and Homelessness Stage 1 Innovation process. Attendance is mandatory at all of the workshops.
- Solutions will be new services to be delivered, or campaigns seeking policy change at statutory level, or both.
- Solutions are participative, person-centred and informed by lived experience
- Opportunities are created to influence decision making and public services relating to housing and homelessness.
- Successful applicants that comprise of 2 or more organisations /collaborations (i.e. project teams) will be required to provide a Partnership Agreement, or equivalent document signed by all participating organisations, as a pre-condition of grant funding

Eligibility criteria

The lead applicant must:

- Be a locally based not-for-profit, voluntary or community group working in Northern Ireland to improve the quality of life for local people
- Have an active management committee, with no two related cheque signatories
- Submit a governing document, i.e. Constitution in the name of the applicant organisation
- Submit a current bank account in the name of your organisation, in credit
- Submit up to date annual accounts
- Have complied with the conditions of previous grants including submission of monitoring returns.
- CFNI's standard terms and conditions will apply.

The Community Foundation will not fund:

- The Community Foundation will not fund organisations or activities which promote causes that are contrary to our purposes. Causes and activities that are contrary to our purposes include, but may not be limited to, those outlined in our investment policy. We will not therefore fund organisations or activities which we determine are linked to the promotion of armaments, alcohol, human rights abuses, tobacco or pornography;
- The advancement of religion. This includes organisations whose purposes include the advancement of religion;
- The establishment of endowment of any school or institution providing further education within the meaning of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1972;
- The provision of assistance to any Housing Association within the meaning of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1976;
- Promotion of religious or political activity, including any flags and emblems that may deem to be associated with such;
- CIC Companies Limited by Shares, or CICs without an asset lock clause. Eligible CICs must have at least three unrelated committee members, and/or the majority of the committee unrelated;
- Trips outside the island of Ireland;
- Applications from individuals;
- Applications from statutory organisations;

- Groups who have not complied with previous monitoring requirements

Programme dates

You will participate in either cohort 1 or cohort 2. You will be asked to nominate your preference of cohort in the application, however as places are limited, this is subject to availability. The venue for cohort 2 will be determined by the most suitable geographical location of the successful applicants for the programme.

Assessment

Written application scoring: 100%

The online application can be accessed here. The deadline for expressions of interest is **Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 4pm.**

Decision-making:

A panel will meet on the 28th March 2023 to select the project teams. The panel will comprise representatives from the programme steering group and will involve people with lived experience of housing and homelessness issues in NI.

If successful, you will be informed on 29th March 2023 and you must be able to commence the programme on the first week of April 2023.

The panel decision will be final.