

RTÉ Toy Show Appeal 2024 Grants Round FAQs

Please read through the following FAQs regarding the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. If your question is not answered, please email the Grants Team at applications@communityfoundationni.org

What types of organisations can apply to the fund?

Children and family charities can apply to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal.

- Charities with an annual income of £20,000–£500,000 may apply to the Community Grants Round. Organisations may work at a local or a national level.
- Charities with an annual income of more than £500,000 may apply to the Impact Grants Round. Organisations may work at a regional or national level.

Applicants must have a charity number and must regularly work with the following vulnerable or marginalised children and young people (0–18):

- Those at risk of poverty and facing consistent poverty.
- Those facing discrimination.
- Those with disabilities, life-limiting conditions and additional needs.
- Those facing and recovering from trauma.

I'm not sure if I am a child or family focused charity, how can I check?

Eligible charities are ones that are primarily focused on supporting children and their families. This includes those who regularly work with children or young people and their families. For the purposes of this grant round, children and/or families should be core or central to the charitable objectives.

What types of organisations are not eligible to apply to this fund?

Ineligible organisations include:

- Charities that do not regularly work with disadvantaged or vulnerable children
- Charities with an annual income of less than £20,000
- Schools, universities and private childcare facilities
- Sports organisations
- Profit-making companies
- Animal welfare organisations
- Proposals from individuals
- Organisations with a credit union account
- 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

My organisation is not eligible, can I still receive funding?

Organisations that do not fit the criteria above are not eligible to apply for funding and any ineligible applications submitted will not be successful. However, ineligible organisations may collaborate with eligible organisations in order to access the funding through a joint project. In these cases, the lead applicant must be eligible.

How much funding can my organisation apply for?

In the Community Grants Round, eligible organisations may apply for funding up to £10,000. This funding must be spent down within 12 months.

In the Impact Grants Round, eligible organisations may apply for funding in the range of £25,000 – £50,000. This funding must be spent down within 12 months.

My organisation is a local group, which is part of a national network, can I apply?

For local organisations that are part of a national network are not eligible to apply. We will only accept applications from the head office of the national network. If you are a local branch, we recommend that you get in touch with your head office who may submit an application on your behalf.

It is the annual income of the national organisations that will determine which grant round the organisation can apply for. Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

What types of proposals are eligible for funding?

Proposals that benefit the following cohorts of children and young people (0-18 years old) are eligible:

- Those at risk of poverty and facing consistent poverty.
- Those facing discrimination.
- Those with disabilities, life-limiting conditions and additional needs.
- Those facing and recovering from trauma.

In the Community Grants Round, proposals can be to continue a current programme. In the Impact Grants Round, proposals must be to significantly upscale a current programme or to start a new programme.

Projects that work with parents, teachers etc are eligible, provided that the project primarily impacts children 0-18. The impact on the children should be clearly shown in the application and the parents or teachers should be regarded as a secondary beneficiary to the project.

Projects must start in June 2024, any proposals for pieces of work before June 2024 will not be eligible for funding.

What types of proposals are not eligible for funding?

Ineligible projects include:

- Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc.
- Advocacy
- Large scale building work or procurement
- Purchasing vehicles
- Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded
- Projects taking place outside of Northern Ireland
- Promotion of religious or political activity, including any flags and emblems that may deem to be associated with such

Can I include staff salaries and capital costs in my application?

Staff salaries and staff hours are eligible in this grant round, provided that the salary/hours are specifically related to the project. They should be included in the budget alongside the expected programme costs. Core running costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc are not eligible.

Small and large scale equipment costs are eligible in both the Community and the Impact Grants Rounds. Small scale building or outdoor space development, such as renovation and extensions are eligible in the Impact Grants Round only, but constructing a new building or buying a building or land is not.

Some projects are being prioritised in this grant round, is it worth applying even if my project isn't a priority?

We have indicated in the criteria that particular types of projects will be prioritised. We hope to fund both priority and non-priority projects, however, we anticipate that this grant round will be very competitive so that may not be the case for every proposal.

Can I send in my proposal via email or post?

All proposals must be submitted through our online application form, we cannot accept applications in other formats.

When is the grant round deadline?

The deadline is **1:00pm on Friday 22nd March 2024**. No applications will be accepted after this time, including forms that have been partially completed prior to the deadline. We recommend you submit your application well before this deadline in case of any unexpected issues.

When will we find out the outcome?

We are expecting a large number of applications in this grant round so the outcome of your application will be announced at the end of May 2024. We expect successful organisations to start work in June 2024.

How long should the project last?

Projects should last no more than 12 months from June 2024 – June 2025.

Does the project need to be for new work?

Your proposal does not need to be for a new project or programme. In the Community Grants Round, proposals may be to continue a current project, and in the Impact Grants Round, proposals should be to significantly upscale current work, or to start a new programme.

We are not able to fund core organisational costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc. Please contact applications@communityfoundationni.org if you would like further clarification.

Can I apply for a project that has already happened?

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland cannot accept applications for projects that have already happened. Please bear in mind that if successful, grants will be awarded in May/June 2024 and projects should start in June 2024. Projects that are planned to start before June 2024 will not be eligible for funding.

Proposals that are to continue current, ongoing Toy Show Appeal projects are eligible, however, any the funding from this year's Toy Show Appeal should be allocated to the project from June 2024 onwards.

Can I apply to multiple Strands?

No, organisations can only apply once to one of the Strands.

How should I choose what Strand and Objective to apply under?

In the RTÉ Toy Show appeal, we have outlined three strands, where we aim to make an impact:

- Addressing Essential Needs
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Creativity and Play

Within each of these Strands, we have identified specific objectives that applicants should aim to meet through their project. Choose one objective that most closely aligns with the programme you wish to apply for.

For example, Charity A is applying for the Impact Grants Round, based on their annual income. They regularly run arts and drama workshops for young people, but the lack of space limits the number of children they can work with. They hope to renovate a nearby space to make it suitable to run additional arts and drama workshops by purchasing furniture, redoing the wallpaper and replacing a broken window. This charity's project meets the objective: 'Increase the number of accessible recreational spaces, including green spaces, by developing existing or new spaces' which fits within the Creativity and Play strand.

Can we apply for a project in collaboration with another organisation?

Collaboration between organisations is encouraged where impact is substantially increased as a result of the collaboration. The organisation who is applying for the grant must be eligible based on the criteria and should be the lead partner in the project. They will be the point of contact for queries, payment and reporting. The partner in the collaboration does not need to be eligible to this grant round.

I have received part-funding for my project from another trust or donor; can I apply to this grant round as well?

Yes, you can apply to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal for projects that you have received part funding for, but you must state this on your application.

Can I apply for a project that costs more than the amount I can apply for?

Yes, organisations can apply for projects with an overall cost of larger than the amount applied for, but applicants should demonstrate how this gap will be filled. Applications that have a very high total cost without the additional funding secured are unlikely to be funded.

If my organisation has already, or is currently in receipt of a grant from the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, can I still apply?

Yes, if you have previously been in receipt of funding or are currently being funded by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland you can still apply to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal. Please note organisations may only have up to 4 live grants at any one time. If you are currently running a project funded by the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, you can apply to extend the project until June 2025.

Does my organisation need a bank account?

Yes, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland can only pay out grants to charitable organisations with a dedicated current bank account and not to individual accounts.

Can funds be paid into a credit union account?

No, if your organisation has a credit union account, you are not eligible to apply.

What documents should I submit with my application?

The following documents must be submitted alongside your application. We can only accept digital copies of these documents.

- The Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- A current list of your organisation's board/committee members.
- A current bank account statement.
- The organisation's most recent signed annual accounts.
- A copy of your equality policy.
- A copy of your child protection and safeguarding policies.

I am not able to submit my governance documents, what can I do?

If you are having trouble submitting the documents, email us at applications@communityfoundationni.org **before the deadline**, and we will be able to help you. Please be mindful that if you are submitting last minute and are not able to submit your documents, we may not be able to help you before the round closes.

What type of annual accounts do I need to submit?

Charity's income level is less than or equal to £250,000 – You must have your accounts independently examined but you can choose who undertakes the examination. This will be someone who the charity trustees have assessed as being capable of independently examining the accounts. 'Being capable' means having the requisite ability and practical experience to comply with the Commission's Directions. The examiner must be independent of the trustees.

Charity's income level is more than £250,000 but less than or equal to £500,000 – You must have your accounts independently examined and this must be by a member of the bodies listed in Section 65(4) of the Charities Act.

Charity's income level is greater than £500,000 – You must have your accounts audited and this must be in compliance with Section 65(2) of the Charities Act.

Accounts should be from 2022 and must be signed.

Will I be required to report on what the grant has been used for?

All grantees will be required to submit an Interim and Outcome Report during the project. Interim reports will be due by the end of January 2025 and Outcome reports will be due in July 2025. RTÉ may require additional reporting alongside this. This will be detailed in the Grant Agreement prior to payments being made.