



People and Communities

Guidance

Northern Ireland



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Part one: Eligibility

We can fund:

-  Unregistered voluntary or community organisation
-  Registered charity (unincorporated)
-  Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
-  Not-for-profit company

You can apply for funding from £10,000 to £500,000 for projects from one to five years. We can fund some or all of your project costs including staff salaries, training, volunteer expenses, equipment, premises costs, evaluation and overheads. Our funding is more flexible than ever, however, there are some things we can't pay for. For example, costs for items or activities you have already incurred before you get a decision, activities outside the UK, fundraising activities and second hand vehicles.

If you are unclear whether or not you can apply and what you can apply for, feel free to give us a call on **028 9055 1455**.

Part two: What's it all about?

People and Communities is a programme to support you working with local people to bring about positive changes in your community.

This could be a community where you live or a group of people you work with. We want to fund activities that will help achieve the programme outcomes of:

- People make changes that improve their lives; and
- Communities build on their strengths and share learning

We want all projects that we fund to embrace the three key themes of:

People led

The idea for the project must come from the people you will be working with in your community. The people need to be involved in the development, design and deliver of their project.

Strengths-based

We'd like to support people and communities to build on the knowledge, skills and experience they already have, to make the changes they want.

Connected

We want to know that you have a good understanding of other activities and services in your community, and can show us how your project will complement these, adding value to what already exists.

We believe that if the projects we fund apply these three key themes, they will strengthen their community and deliver a successful project. There are examples on our website showing how organisations have applied the three key themes.

You will usually get a decision within four months from when we received your application form. We have £57 million to invest over five years and this should fund around 400 projects across Northern Ireland. This is a popular programme and unfortunately it will not be possible to fund every project.

Part three: I'm interested. How do I get started?

Talk to us

We are really interested in your ideas and are here to support you to make the best application possible. If you have a project idea, call us on **028 9055 1455** to speak directly with one of our team.

This is an opportunity to tell us about your project, what it will do, who will benefit from it, why it's needed and you can ask us questions you might have.

Based on our conversation we will advise if you are ready to apply and if so, send you an application form. We may offer advice on the three key themes of people-led, strengths-based and connected before sending you an application form, if we don't think you are ready.



Keep talking

You can call us as many times as you need to, to chat about your project idea. This is not an assessment. It's a chance to get some early feedback to further develop your idea. The programme is open until 2021 and you can apply at any time, so take as much time as you need.



Coming to you

Alternatively, if you prefer a face-to-face chat about your project idea, we can come and see you when we are in your area, as we are now working more locally across Northern Ireland. Just give us a call.



Part four:

What happens when you send us your form?

Application form received

We will let you know when we receive it and who in our team it has been assigned to.



Assessing your project

We will contact you to arrange a face-to-face meeting and may ask you for additional information before we visit.



Face-to-face visits

We will discuss your project and explore how it meets the programme outcomes and three key themes. We will also ask how your project will be delivered and the difference the project will make.



Assessment report

Once the visit is complete, an assessment report will be written up which will consider how your project meets the programme outcomes and three key themes; if the delivery and cost of the project is appropriate and realistic; and if your organisation has the skills, experience and resources to deliver the project.



Decisions

Assessment reports will be moderated by our team and we may contact you for additional information or give you feedback if we think your project needs more work.



Applications will usually get a decision within four months. If you are unsuccessful, we will let you know why. We welcome the opportunity to support you if we can.

Part five: Where can I find out more?

Check out our website where you will find more information in relation to the programme's key themes and case studies on projects we have funded to date. There is also a short animated video which explains what we mean by people-led.

tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/peopleandcommunities

If you have any questions about the programme that this guidance hasn't answered, or you are wondering what to do next, please contact us on **028 9055 1455** and we will be more than happy to help you.

Contact us

Email: enquiries.ni@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Phone: 028 9055 1455

Website: tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/peopleandcommunities

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