



Biodiversity Fund 2024

Implementing CBAP Recommendations

About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland and its partners believe in equality for all in thriving communities. We work with individuals, families, corporates and other trusts and foundations, as well as Government, to translate giving in the moment to giving that is strategic, sustainable and impactful. We use our skills and knowledge developed over 24-years to help donors turn aspirations into effective investments.

The Foundation works with partners to achieve solutions for both long-standing and emerging challenges. The work is built upon four pillars: Empowering Generations, Sustainable Futures, Inclusive Communities and Accelerating Change.

Through our many partnerships we are working towards an Ireland where barriers are broken down and communities are empowered to thrive. Working with you, other non-profits and donors we are committed to making this vision a reality.

About the Fund

With the support of the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, this fund has been devised to enhance biodiversity in communities throughout the country by combining the expertise of qualified ecologists with the skills, experience, and enthusiasm of local community groups.

We are inviting any organisation who has a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their area to apply for funding to implement some of the recommendations contained in it.

If you do not have a Community Biodiversity Action Plan you are not eligible for this strand but may be eligible to apply for the 'Developing a CBAP' Strand. You can find information about this on our website.

Criteria

This year, any organisation with a Community Biodiversity Action Plan is invited to apply for grants of **up to €12,000** to implement recommendations emerging from their Community Biodiversity Action Plans (CBAPs).

These grants will only be available to those groups who have submitted their full Community Biodiversity Action Plans and their full data set to the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Please ensure your CBAP is on the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Please ensure you have all permissions approved before applying. This may be from landowners, local councils, farmers, etc.

The total cost for the project can be larger than the amount applied for, but Community Foundation Ireland will only fund the amount available through the Strand. Where there are funding gaps, the organisation should note how the additional funds have/will be raised.

Budgets can include the cost of a consultant ecologist.



Tips on Applying

- **Please do not apply for general biodiversity projects as they will not be assessed.**
- Please attach your CBAP as this is essential for our assessors to make an informed decision.
- Be as descriptive as possible when describing your targeted area and actions.
- Contacting and collaborating with other environmental groups, community groups, or Tidy Towns organisations in your area is a great way to strengthen an application.
- Please include community outreach/community awareness raising in your budgets. This can include educational events, school talks, public walks/talks with the ecologist, etc.
- We recommend contacting your county council’s Biodiversity Officer and/or Heritage Officer before making an application. They will advise on the most impactful CBAP Recommendations to implement.

Grant Round Timeline:

Opening date for applications:	23 rd September 2024
Closing date for applications:	4pm, 25 th October 2024
Grants will be awarded:	January 2025
Work should be carried out:	January 2025 – January 2026
Progress report due:	August 2025
Outcome Report due:	February 2026

Eligibility:

Eligible organisations...	Eligible projects...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be a registered charity or a local community/ voluntary group. • Must have an annual income of less than €2,000,000. • Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts, and a dedicated bank account for your group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be to carry out recommendations from a Community Biodiversity Action Plan • Must liaise with Landowners / Farmers / Local Authorities where applicable. • Will include clear, detailed, realistic costs and timescales.



Ineligible organisations include...	Ineligible projects include...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charitable organisations or community/voluntary groups with an annual income of more than €2,000,000 • Statutory bodies • For-profit companies • Organisations outside the Republic of Ireland • Individual people who are not part of a constituted organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing core costs such as insurance, rent, bills etc. • General biodiversity projects. • Religious or Political activities. • Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded. • Projects that do not have permission from all landowners involved. • Projects taking place outside of the Republic of Ireland

Priorities for this Strand:

We anticipate that this will be a very competitive grant round so proposals that show the unique value of their project will be prioritised, this includes the following:

- Projects that make the greatest impact on restoring the biodiversity of the plan area.
- Projects that demonstrate working with and educating the wider community. CBAPs are an important way for local communities to get involved in learning about the wildlife in their local area and getting best practice advice on how to improve the biodiversity.

Reporting requirements:

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Acknowledge the support of Community Foundation Ireland and The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on any materials associated with the grant.
- Submit a Progress Report in August 2025.
- Submit an Outcome Report in February 2026.

Progress and Outcome Reports will be submitted via our Grants Portal. You will be notified in advance of their due date.

Documentation we need to make grants:

Applicants will need to provide some information around how the grant will be managed. This can be done through the Grants Portal by uploading digital copies.

It must be completed before you submit your application.



- **Mission Statement OR Constitution OR Memorandum and Articles of Association.**
 - This must show the mission statement or main objects of the organisation, how any donations will be used. It must also include information on what happens to remaining funds should your organisation be wound-up.
 - If you have a Constitution this should show the winding up clause, and details of the appointment of the Board of Directors.
 - This document must be **signed**.
- **A bank account statement header**
 - This statement header must clearly show the Account Name, BIC and IBAN.
 - Please blank out any transactions, as this is purely to verify the account to pay the grant into.
- **List of Committee members / Board members**
 - All applicants will be asked to submit all members of their committee/board members, and their length of time served.
- **The organisation's latest, signed annual accounts or financial statement**
 - Annual accounts should include unabridged financial statements for the last year, or where relevant, a monthly profit and loss for the year.
 - Organisations with an annual income of less than €100,000 should provide a **signed** Profit and Loss account for the year.
 - Organisations with an annual income of more than €100,000 must provide **signed** audited annual accounts.

If you do not submit the correct documents, your application will not be considered for funding. If you are having trouble attaching documents to the application form, please email them to info@foundation.ie

How to Apply:

The Fund is open for applications on **23rd September** and will close at **4pm, Friday 25th October 2024**.

To apply to the Grant Round please read our general guidance around accessing and submitting applications [here](#).

You can also access the Application Help Guide on our website which contains a step-by-step guide to accessing and submitting applications, including the list of questions contained in the application.

Please note all applications must be made through our Grants Portal. We will not accept any other type of application.

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Grants Team at info@foundation.ie.