

For change. For better. For all.

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# Donor Charter

*Approved by the Board on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

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## Introduction

Community Foundation Ireland (**the Foundation**) and its donors are on a shared mission of equality for all in thriving communities. Together with over 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable partners we are a philanthropic hub for Ireland which is a source of knowledge, expertise, and information to ensure effective and strategic giving.

Our mission is supported by four pillars: Sustainable Futures, Inclusive Communities, Empowering Generations and Accelerating Change.

## Donors

The Foundation provides a trusted source of expertise and a range of services for people and organisations seeking to maximise the impact of their donations. Since the year 2000 the Foundation has provided the expertise, network and knowledge that enables donors to make a positive impact through strategic giving. We connect donors, grantees and communities to support equality.

**Donor Rights:** Donors have the right to be assured that their gifts shall be used for the purposes for which they were given. The Foundation respects the rights of donors to be informed about the mission and causes for which the Foundation is raising funds; to be informed about how their donation is used through the receipt of clear, honest, and accurate information.

**Privacy:** Donors' personal information shall be treated with respect, confidentiality, and in accordance with applicable data protection laws and their stated wishes.

**Choice:** Donors have the right to choose how their donations are used and to specify any restrictions or preferences regarding their gifts, in line with the charitable objectives of the Foundation.

**Recognition:** The Foundation shall acknowledge and appreciate donors' contributions promptly and appropriately, including providing receipts for tax purposes and recognition in accordance with the donor's preferences.

**Feedback and Complaints:** Donors have the right to provide feedback, express concerns, or lodge complaints about the Foundation's fundraising practices or use of funds. The Foundation shall address donors' feedback and complaints promptly, fairly, and transparently as set out in the [Complaints and Comments Policy](#).

## Use of Donations

- a. The Foundation shall use donations responsibly, effectively, and efficiently to advance its mission and programmes in accordance with donors' intentions and the Foundation's strategic priorities and charitable objectives. Where donations are made for a specific purpose, for example towards a specific thematic fund, the donor's request shall be agreed at onboarding and duly honoured.
- b. The Foundation shall ensure that funds raised are allocated in line with the donor's intentions, the Foundation's strategic priorities and in line with the agreed philanthropy management fee.

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c. The Foundation shall provide periodic updates to donors on the impact of their contributions and the progress of the grantee's projects and initiatives, as agreed with donors in advance.

## Governance and Oversight

The Board of the Foundation provides oversight and ensures that all activities align with the Foundation's mission, values, charitable and strategic objectives. The Foundation has established appropriate policies, procedures, and controls to safeguard donors' contributions and maintain the trust and confidence of donors and the public.

## Compliance and Accountability

The Foundation shall comply with all relevant laws, regulatory bodies including the Charities Regulator, and best practices governing charitable fundraising and financial management. The Foundation shall be accountable to its donors, beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the public for the effective and ethical use of funds.

The Audit and Risk Committee (**ARC**), a sub-committee of the board provides oversight on all governance, risk and financial management.

The Foundation has self-declared for Charities Institute Ireland's Triple Lock Certification;

1. The Board has formally adopted the Guidelines for *Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public*, as devised by the Charities Regulator
2. The Foundation prepares an annual report and financial statements in full compliance with the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice under FRS102) and are freely available to the public [Community Foundation Ireland Annual Reports](#).
3. The Board has confirmed compliance with the *Charities Governance Code* as devised by the Charities Regulator and confirmed intent to maintain full compliance.

The Foundation's Board has appointed an external auditor to audit/examine the annual accounts.

## Disclosure

Donors have the right to be informed of the status and authority of those soliciting donations:

- Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer (the **CEO**) the Foundation has a professional Fund Development team, led by the Director of Philanthropy which oversees all philanthropy and fund-raising activities in line with the mission, values and charitable purpose of the Foundation.
- The Foundation does not use paid third party agents in the solicitation of funds.

## Review

The Foundation is committed to regularly reviewing the terms of this charter to ensure it remains up to date. This shall be carried out in a three-year basis, or as the need arises to reflect changes in the Foundation's practices, policies, external regulations or other developments.