

The Equality Fund

Rethink Ireland. Formerly the Social Innovation Fund, has established the Equality Fund 2020 – 2023. It aims to tackle causes of inequality in life in Ireland for the period.

This €3 million will support organisations and groups that empower marginalised communities and tackle systemic inequality.

Application can be made to the Equality Fund via the online application form at www.rethinkireland.ie by 5 pm on Monday 14th September 2020.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are invited from organisations that support marginalised women, migrant people (including people in need of international protection), people from minority ethnic communities, the Traveller and Roma communities, people with disabilities and LGBTI+ people. These organisations will also work to strengthen equality in Ireland.

The Fund will especially focus on projects that:

- Address poverty inequality
- Work with communities experiencing many discriminations and stigma
- Work with marginalised communities affected by COVID-19
- Are based on communities speaking and acting for themselves

To enable this work the Fund further welcomes projects which emphasise:

- Freedom of civil society, solidarity between groups and collaborations
- Changing hearts and minds
- Systemic change
- Leadership support

This Fund has three strands.

- **1. Empowering Women:** This strand supports projects to empower more women from minority communities into employment. This strand will also fund projects which support women who are employed on an informal basis, in low paying jobs, or who find it difficult to assert their rights.
- **2. Strengthening Communities:** This strand supports projects which empower communities to advocate for themselves. They will strengthen equality in Ireland through community work and collective action.
- **3. Building Equality Together:** This strand supports projects or networks to work together to enhance equality. We seek applications from two or more organisations who have come together to promote equality. This includes existing networks and collaborations.

- **Note: You cannot apply for both strands 1 and 2 for the same project.**
If you apply to strand 1 or 2, you can still apply to strand 3. This is because you will apply to strand 3 as part of a group or network of projects.

What does the fund offer?

- Cash grants of between €55,000 and €75,000 each year for three years*
- Strand 1 (Empowering Women) – Up to €65,000 per year each year for 3 years
- Strand 2 (Strengthening Communities) – Up to €55,000 per year each year for 3 years
- Strand 3 (Building Equality Together) – Up to €75,000 per year each year for 3 years
- A strategic supports package to help organisations expand and deepen their impact
- A place on Rethink Ireland’s Accelerator Programme
- Project performance and impact management, including managing its impact
- Access to Rethink Ireland’s networks of civil society, Government and donors

* The Rethink Ireland Board will decide how much money to award, which may be less than the amount requested. The amount of the award will depend on how many organisations are selected.

How to apply

Complete the online application form by 5 pm on Monday 14th September 2020. To complete your application form online, you will need to upload documents such as a three-year budget for your project (in Excel), your financial statements and a link to a 2-3 minute video about your project.

Further information at www.rethinkireland.ie