



EirGrid Community Fund (Mullingar – Kinnegad 110 kV Line)

Social Impact Grants

Invitation to apply for a Grant 2016

Timeline and Criteria

Timeline:	Opening Date for applications	28 th April 2016
	Closing Date for applications	20 th May 2016
	Grants will be made	September 2016
	Work should begin	October 2016
	Interim Reports due	April 2017
	Final Outcome Reports due	October 2017

About The Community Foundation for Ireland:

The Community Foundation for Ireland is a grant-making and donor services charity. The Community Foundation makes grants to not-for-profit and voluntary groups working in communities throughout the Republic of Ireland. The Community Foundation administers this grant scheme.

About the Fund:

EirGrid is developing a new electricity line on the transmission system from Mullingar to Kinnegad and, in line with Government policy, EirGrid wishes to follow a community gain approach in the delivery of this infrastructure and has established a fund for communities in proximity to the new transmission lines and rural transmission stations for this purpose.

The EirGrid Community Support Fund has been established to support community based projects that make a difference for people in the geographic scope of the development of the transmission line from Mullingar to Kinnegad (**see map on The Community Foundation for Ireland website**) and that provide added benefit to the local community.

Purpose of Social Impact Grants from the Fund:

Grants of **€10,000 to €50,000** are available for significant social impact projects – projects that demonstrate a medium/long term benefit to the community. Applications for the Fund are being sought from organisations in the area and will only be accepted from community and voluntary groups that possess charitable aims and are not for profit and who are located within the specified geographical area (**see map on The Community Foundation for Ireland website**) and who are addressing one or more of the following priorities:

1. Employment

We want to help people in the Mullingar-Kinnegad area to gain or improve skills that are necessary for good jobs. We welcome applications from community groups or voluntary organisations that focus on employment training. If you help unemployed people to prepare for and access job opportunities, we want to help you. We're particularly interested in training that focuses on younger or older unemployed people. We know that supporting these groups will have the most positive impact on the entire community.

2. Education

We want to help children and young people to stay at school in the Mullingar-Kinnegad area. We're looking to support charity and voluntary bodies that identify and support children at risk of leaving school early. We also want to help those who provide training and supports for early school leavers. In particular, we welcome applicants who provide education and training for this group.

We also want to use our fund to help after-school programmes for children of all ages. Our grant assessors are particularly looking to help after-school services that support disadvantaged children. We also want to support groups that aim to resolve social and economic challenges by helping schoolchildren.

3. Environment

As the operator of the electricity grid, EirGrid has a particular interest in energy awareness and energy efficiency. We want to fund projects or initiatives that help promote these topics in the Mullingar-Kinnegad area. We're particularly looking to support ideas that will reduce energy usage or lower energy costs for good causes in the region.

We're also open to applications for supports that help the broader community environment. This could include investments in public or community amenities. It could also be used to fund an initiative or development from existing groups like your local TidyTown's committee.

4. Community Facilities

We will also use our fund to help provide or improve long-term facilities, amenities and activities for the community. We are especially interested in applicants that provide facilities for children and young people. If you have a proposal to renovate or enhance an existing facility, or to develop a new one, we want to hear from you.

Priority will be given to community groups who are collaborating with other community groups on project activity that will have a profound and sustainable impact on the local area.

Please note only one application per strand per organisation will be accepted.

The Fund will not support:

- Applications from individuals
- Applications made from groups or organisations who are based outside the specified geographical area (**see map on The Community Foundation for Ireland website**)

- General appeals
- Sports without an identifiable charitable element
- Applications that promote religious or political activities
- Applications for funding to cover the cost of
 - Salaried positions
 - Trips abroad
 - Research
 - General running costs.
- Sponsored events
- Retrospective funding (work that is already underway or has taken place)
- Animal charities

Applicant Criteria:

- Applicants must supply the following documentation with their application: a copy of a recent bank statement (you can hide any transactional history as it is only the bank and account name we are checking); last set of Audited Accounts; Memorandum and Articles of Association and Tax Clearance Certificate of the organisation applying.
- **Applicants should have an organisational bank account or access to one. All grants will be awarded by bank transfer.** The applicant organisation is the organisation to which payment will be made- unless we are advised otherwise
- We encourage applicant organisations to consider adopting The Governance Code for charities – see www.governancecode.ie
- Applications must be from community and voluntary groups that possess charitable aims and are not for profit and only one application per strand will be accepted per organisation.
- Applications will only be accepted from organisations that are located within the specified geographical area (**see map on The Community Foundation for Ireland website**). Before applying please check the map to ensure your eligibility.
- We will consider all requests fairly and will do our best to take any particular need into account
- **Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a presentation to the EirGrid Community Support Fund Assessment Committee prior to selection of successful candidates.**

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting:

All successful applicants must

- Acknowledge receipt of the grant in writing or by email, confirming that the grant will be used for the purpose it was applied for and agreeing to any terms and conditions attached.
- Collaborate with The Community Foundation for Ireland (on behalf of the Fund) in providing feedback on the supported initiatives.
- Monitor and report progress in relation to the supported projects at agreed intervals.
- Submit an Interim Report after six months and a Final Outcome and Financial Monitoring Report to The Community Foundation for Ireland confirming how the grant has been spent and the impacts of the project. Guidelines for completion of such reports will be supplied by The Community Foundation for Ireland.
- In addition, successful applicants may be asked to submit a short report 2/3 years post completion of the project to measure any long term impact where relevant.
- Acknowledge the support of The EirGrid Community Support Fund at The Community Foundation for Ireland on any materials associated with the grant.

- Please note that your project may be selected for a **site visit** by EirGrid and selected projects will be notified in advance.
- Please note EirGrid may use your project for promotional purposes.

How to Apply:

Use the online application form which can be accessed through the **EirGrid Community Fund** page of our website.

1. Check you meet the Criteria
2. Check that your organisation is located in the specified geographical area (**see map on The Community Foundation for Ireland website**).
3. Ensure you can fulfil the Reporting Requirements
4. Ensure that the timing of your project is suitable. If you have any questions please contact us
5. You must apply via our online application form
6. **Ensure your bank details (BIC and IBAN) are valid and correct and that you have a copy of a recent bank statement ready to submit online**
7. Applications should be submitted before the deadline. Applications received after this date will not be considered.
8. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application at the end of the summer. Successful applicants will receive grant payments by electronic fund transfer in early September 2016.

If you have any questions please contact Adele Mc Namara on **info@foundation.ie** or 01 874 7354

Closing Date: 4.30 p.m. Friday 20th May 2016.

NOTE: Your application will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement **within 24 hours**, having checked your Junk and Spam folders, please contact us at: **info@foundation.ie** or on **01 874 7354**.