

2027 CAIRDE Grant Scheme

**Community Action, Inclusion, Regeneration, Development
& Environment**



Purpose of the CAIRDE Grant Scheme

As part of our commitment to supporting communities, local development and regeneration, Galway City Council has established the Community Action, Inclusion, Regeneration, Development & Environment (CAIRDE) Grant Scheme. This Scheme offers financial support to community, sporting and voluntary groups, social enterprises and business associations for projects and initiatives that contribute to the development of their communities and improve the quality-of-life experience in their areas.

The funding available is allocated from Galway City Council's Annual Budget 2027, as adopted by the Elected Members. It is available to support those groups wishing to undertake specific projects under the relevant categories / streams of the Scheme. The Scheme will also enable local regeneration, and enhancement works and in limited cases, projects may be delivered directly by Galway City Council, where appropriate.

Who Can Apply?

- Community and Voluntary groups
- Sporting Organisations
- Social Enterprises
- Business Associations
- In limited cases, projects may be delivered directly by Galway City Council

Eligibility Criteria

- Groups must operate within Galway City
- Projects/initiatives must contribute to the development of local communities or improve the quality-of-life experience in their areas.
- Groups / Organisations must hold a group Bank Account / Credit Union Account in their legal name

Who Cannot Apply?

- Individuals
- Public Sector
- Commercial for-profit organisations

What Cannot be Funded?

- Personal equipment i.e. laptops
- Entry fees for competitions
- Purchase of vehicles
- Foreign travel
- Prize money
- Membership Fees

Community Action (Min Grant €1,000 – Max€25,000)

The Community Action funding stream is designed to support projects and initiatives that enhance the social, cultural, and physical well-being of local communities.

The goal of this funding stream is to strengthen community ties, provide resources for collaborative efforts, and encourage active participation in creating sustainable, thriving communities.

Initiatives in this area could include neighbourhood watch programmes, youth engagement activities, crime prevention education, and projects that enhance public spaces to increase safety and accessibility.

Applications that support delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan – ‘an equal and inclusive city’ / ‘a city that promotes health and well-being’ Goals are encouraged.

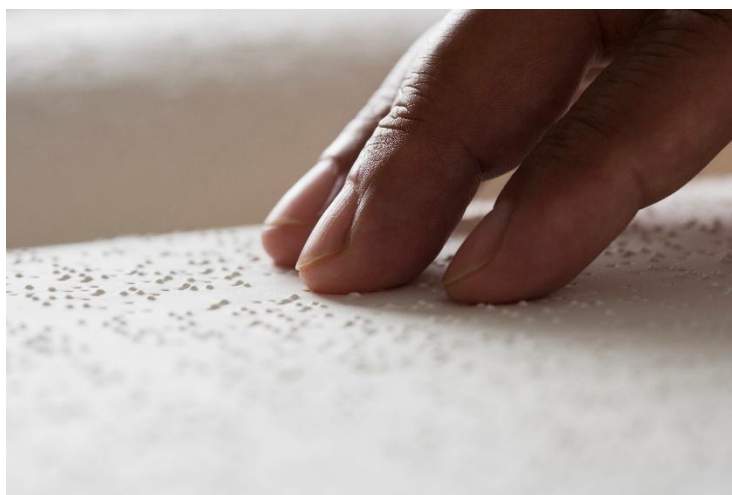


Inclusion (Min Grant €5,000 – Max €50,000)

The Inclusion funding stream is designed to support projects that promote equality, accessibility and social inclusion for all members of the community, particularly those who may face barriers to full participation in society.

Projects that may be considered for funding include, but are not limited to, age-friendly initiatives, the promotion of Irish and minority languages, cultural projects and programmes or supports to increase accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Applications that support delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) are encouraged, together with projects that support Galway's bilingual city status.



Regeneration (Min Grant €5,000 - Max €25,000)

The Regeneration funding stream is aimed at supporting projects that contribute to the revitalisation and sustainable development of disadvantaged areas within Galway City.

Eligible initiatives may include, but are not limited to, urban renewal projects, local enhancement and improvement to public spaces, the creation of community hubs, development of facilities in disadvantaged areas.

This funding stream is specifically intended to address disparities in underdeveloped areas, ensuring that regeneration efforts are targeted towards those who would benefit most. Projects that encourage local engagement, sustainable development and economic empowerment will be prioritised.



Development (Min Grant €5,000 - Max €50,000)

The Development funding stream will support projects that promote local economic growth, infrastructure development and enhanced community and sports facilities.

Eligible projects could include, but are not limited to, upgrades to sports facilities and running of sporting events, the development of tourism and enterprise infrastructure and supports, and the creation of new public spaces or recreational areas that benefit both locals and visitors.

Grants will be considered for activities / projects / works that promote local economic activity or new business opportunities for a local area or market the city as an enterprise tourism location.

Applications should demonstrate a clear plan for development, with a focus on sustainability, community benefit, and measurable outcomes. Applications that support delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan – ‘a sustainable and resilient city’ / ‘an innovative city’ Goals will also be encouraged.



Environment (Min Grant €1,000 - €25,000)

This stream aims to fund initiatives that address environmental challenges, promote climate action, and foster greater awareness of biodiversity, heritage, and the city's green spaces and cemeteries.

Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, climate action initiatives that reduce carbon emissions, biodiversity conservation projects, heritage conservation, and the creation or improvement of local amenities that enhance environmental sustainability.

Applicants are encouraged to design initiatives that integrate climate action with broader environmental, cultural, and social objectives. Applications that support delivery of the Local Economic and Community Plan – 'a sustainable and resilient city' Goal and Galway City's Climate Action Plan are encouraged.



How to apply?

- Online applications accepted from **Monday 5th October**
- Closing date is **Friday 30th October 2026 at 12pm**
- Please ensure that you complete the application form online in full and that all supporting documentation is submitted with your online application.
- Late applications will not be accepted, the link to submit applications will not be accessible after the closing date.
- Link to online application is
<https://galwaycity.submit.com/show/75>



Programme Requirements

- **Quotations - Important note:** Please ensure that you submit the following with your application:
 - Three quotations from different suppliers for the project elements that are between €5,000 - €25,000 along with confirmation of which quotation you wish to proceed with and rationale for same.
 - One quotation for the project elements that are under €5,000.
 - Budget breakdown for project.
- **Statutory Consents** - Applicants must ensure that all necessary statutory permissions or consents have been obtained before any works commence. This includes but is not confined to planning permission.
- **Governance** - Successful applications for funding under this programme will only be paid to the group/organisation's Bank Account and must be set up with Galway City Councils Finance section for payment.
- **Acknowledgment of funding** - Galway City Council must be credited on all promotional materials related to the funded project. Any information, signage, or other publicity associated with this project should recognise Galway City Council's support through the use of logos or other written acknowledgments.

Programme Requirements

- **Evidence of expenditure** - Receipts/invoices marked paid, for vouched expenditure (i.e. amount invoice has been paid) for all items purchased or work undertaken and bank statements must be retained and provided to Galway City Council and must relate to and be in line with the purpose of the grant approved.
- Costs must be incurred during the 2027 calendar year. Grants will not be awarded retrospectively i.e. grants will be paid only for work / resources / equipment etc to be purchased / undertaken in 2027.
- All projects must be completed **by 31st October 2027** and all approved funding claimed by the **28th November 2027**.

Key Points

- Grant assistance requests received usually exceed the funds available for allocation. Applicants should be aware that offers of funding may be for a lesser amount than that sought.
- Final approval of funding rests with the Elected Members of Galway City Council based on a decision at the January 2027 Council meeting.
- Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their grant application in mid-January 2027. We kindly request that you refrain from contacting the Community Department until you have received notification regarding the outcome.
- Projects / Proposals must be completed before you can draw down the full grant. Before final payment, Galway City Council may carry out a site inspection or project visit to confirm that all works have been carried out. 50% of the grant may be payable in advance. In this case, projects must be fully completed before the final 50% is payable.

Key Points

- Where a project is proposed on public land, written confirmation from the Council / landowner consenting and supporting the application must be submitted.
- Any consents required under Heritage legislation where applicable must be submitted.
- Planning permission must be in place at time of application if applicable.
- Funding under the 2027 CAIRDE scheme may not be provided to groups who have failed to draw down their allocated CAIRDE 2026 funding before the 28th November 2026 deadline. (unless specific authorisation has been provided by GCC)
- If successful, no groups will receive any grant payment until all quotations are received for project.

Further information and support

Please contact the Urban and Community Development Officers to discuss your proposed project or if you have any queries in relation to the scheme, require assistance in making an application etc.

Deirdre Keaney Cunningham

- Local Electoral Area: Galway City West
- Mobile: 087 146 5006
- Email: deirdre.keaneycunningham@galwaycity.ie

Oliver Lydon

- Local Electoral Area: Galway City East
- Mobile: 087 609 1460
- Email: oliver.lydon@galwaycity.ie

Natalie Coen

- Local Electoral Area: Galway City Central
- Mobile: 087 110 3209
- Email: natalie.coen@galwaycity.ie

Thank you !!

- Online applications accepted from Monday 5th October.
- Applications may be made online until Friday 30th October 2026 at 12.00pm. No late applications will not be accepted.
- Further information on the CAIRDE 2027 scheme including Scheme Guidelines is available [HERE](#)
- Thank you for listening. Any questions ?

