

2026

Call for Proposals Vibrant Community Fund

GDA

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1 GDA Vibrant Community Fund 2026 – Key Information

What's on Offer

Stream 1: Two grants of €2,500 each: a grant of €2,500 will be awarded to two eligible applicants for larger-scale community festivals, events and activities.

Stream 2: Five grants of €1,000 each: a grant of €1,000 will be awarded to five eligible applicants for a range of smaller-scale activities, projects, events and initiatives.

Who can apply?

Community groups and organisations based in the Grangegorman area that are working to bring people together, promote cultural diversity, support learning experiences, encourage climate action, and enhance local community life.

Key Criteria:

- All events/activities must be free to participants.
- Grants cannot be used for political activities or general organisational costs.
- Funding must be used within the calendar year.

2026 Timetable

Vibrant Community Fund Launch	Wednesday, 14 January 2026
Q&A Session	Monday, 19 January 2026
Closing Date/Time for Applications	COB Monday, 16 February 2026
Anticipated Award Notification Dates	Monday, 2 March 2026
Deadline for Required Documentation	Friday, 27 March 2026
Award documentation shared with Finance	By 7th April 2026
Finance to pay out fund	TBC

How to Apply:

Access the online application form  [Grangegorman Development Agency Vibrant Community Fund 2026 - Grant Application Form – Fill out form](#)

Submit your completed form by Close of Business, Monday 16th February 2026

Join our online Q&A to learn more on

Visit our website: <https://ggda.ie/our-neighbourhood/vibrant-community-fund/>

2 Purpose of Fund

The GDA Vibrant Community Fund has been supporting community-based and community-focused initiatives in the Grangegorman area since 2014. As part of our mission is to create a vibrant, sustainable community, the purpose of this fund is to:

- support ongoing community development in the area
- build positive relationships and foster good communications at community level
- facilitate a better understanding of the work and needs of local community groups.

3 Available Funding

Grants are awarded in each calendar year from a total annual Vibrant Community Fund of €10,000, subject to confirmation and availability of funding on an annual basis.

Grants are awarded from two separate streams (see eligibility criteria below) and all grants must be spent within the calendar year in which they have been awarded.

- **Stream 1:** Two grants of €2,500 each: a grant of €2,500 will be awarded to two eligible applicants for larger-scale community festivals, events and activities.
- **Stream 2:** Five grants of €1,000 each: a grant of €1,000 will be awarded to five eligible applicants for a range of smaller-scale activities, projects, events and initiatives.

4 Eligibility

- a) Groups or organisations applying for funding must be located in the Grangegorman Neighbourhood (as set out in the Grangegorman Development Agency Act 2005 - <https://ggda.ie/our-neighbourhood/grangegorman-today/>)
- b) All events and activities funded through these grants must be free of charge to participants.
- c) Grants cannot be used for events or activities that are either political in nature or could be construed as political.
- d) Grants must be used for projects, activities, events and initiatives with an overall community gain. This could be through bringing people together, using outdoor public spaces, encouraging cultural diversity and heritage, learning experiences, climate action and other such opportunities.
- e) Grants cannot be used to replace any other statutory funding or towards any overheads or administrative costs of running an organisation or group.
- f) Grants must be used for appropriate purposes that align with the objectives of the program. They cannot be used for personal or inappropriate expenses, such as alcohol or similar items.
- g) The GDA will only make a single contribution to a single event organised by a particular organisation or group in any given year.
- h) Applications can be made in any given year to either funding stream, but not to both.
- i) Grants will only be paid to organisations or groups with an appropriate system of governance and who can demonstrate financial accountability. Grant funding cannot be paid to an individual's bank account. Funding can only be paid to verified group/organisation bank accounts.
- j) Applications must include an estimate of total costs, the funding sought from the GDA and the source and status (received or yet to be received) of additional funding.
- k) Each successful organisation will complete a Supplier Set Up form, and will furnish bank account details (Copy of Bank Statement header), and tax clearance certification (if required)
- l) A full account of the grant expenditure for any previous event or activity that was funded by the GDA Vibrant Community Fund, including how the grant was spent, must be submitted to the GDA by a grant awardee before any further funding applications for that group can be considered.
- m) Applicants that are registered for tax /as a charity will provide their tax clearance reference

details and registered charity numbers. Grants in excess of €1,000 require a tax clearance certificate.

- n) Adequate insurance provisions, as necessary, must be in place for any event / activity supported by the fund.
- o) All necessary licences, permits and the like must be in place for any event / activity supported by the fund.
- p) Adequate Child Protection measures must be in place, (if applicable) for any event / activity supported by the Fund.

5 Application Process

A public call for applications will be issued in Quarter 1 of each year and an online question and answer session on the application process will be arranged and publicised. A closing date for receipt of grant applications and an Award Notification Date (for both successful and unsuccessful applicants) will also be set and publicised. See Timetable on page 3 above.

Applications will be invited via a range of GDA and local channels.

Applications must be submitted using the official online application form which will be widely circulated. All applications will be acknowledged on receipt. Applications received after the published deadline or any which fail to use the official application form will not be considered.

Applications will be assessed based on selection criteria outlined below. Receiving a grant does not ensure funding contribution in future funding rounds.

Applicants can only apply for a single funding stream in each grant year.

Organisations, groups and projects who have previously received a grant will not be excluded from future applications in subsequent years, although previous grants will be taken into account along with the nature and purpose of any new application when allocating funding.

6 Selection Process

The selection process will be conducted by a Vibrant Community Fund Working Group of GDA personnel that may include the Head of People and Engagement, the Communications Manager, and the Community Engagement Manager, along with an external assessor. The decision of the Working Group is final.

- Stage 1: Working Group reviews all applications.
- Stage 2: Working Group evaluates eligible applications and scores them based on criteria outlined below to identify successful applicants.
- Stage 3: Working Group refers details of recommended awardees to the GDA CEO and GDA Finance for review.
- Stage 4: All applicants are notified.
- Stage 5: The outcome of the process is published on GDA website and social media.
- Stage 6: Grant awardee signs a GDA Grant Agreement.

7 Selection Criteria

This section outlines the selection criteria applied to eligible applications in each strand. Each application will be marked out of 30 marks. Successful Applicants must reach a minimum threshold of 20 marks.

Stream 1:

- Quality of Proposal – Describe what the group would like to do. (10 marks)
- Proposed community reach and impact of event/activity/initiative (10 marks)
 - consider where activities are intended to be located and/or inclusion of a wide range of groups within the community.
- Feasibility of the proposal – is it achievable? Outline implementation plan (10 marks) to include proposed budget breakdown and other sources of funding where applicable.

Stream 2: -

- Quality of Proposal – Describe what you'd like to do. (10 marks)
- Describe how the proposal will add to the vibrancy of your community (10 marks)
- Feasibility of the proposal – is it achievable? Outline implementation plan (10 marks) to include proposed budget breakdown and other sources of funding where applicable.

Should a situation arise whereby the number of applicants with equal scores exceed the number of grants available in either stream, the Working Group will make a further assessment based on the following additional criteria:

- a) is the proposed project/event new?
- b) Is this the first time this applicant has applied for a grant?
- c) Will the proposed projects involve Grangegorman campus engagement whether through location or engagement with onsite groups?

The purpose of this fund is to help support a wide range of inclusive and new ideas within our ever-evolving community. As such, in the event of tied scoring, new applicants or applicants proposing new initiatives will be given preference.

8 Fund/Stream Surplus

Where Stream 1 receives fewer eligible applications than there are grants available and Stream 2 has received a surplus of eligible applications, the unspent funds from Stream 1 will be transferred to Stream 2 and allocated to eligible applicants under that stream.

Where Stream 2 receives fewer eligible applicants than there are grants available, a further public call may be opened for additional applications under Stream 2 around mid-year.

9 Notification to Applicants

Awardees and unsuccessful applicants will be directly notified of the outcome of their applications within the agreed published timeframe once the selection process outlined above has been completed. The outcome of the selection process will be final and there will be no facility to appeal decisions made.

10 Funding Agreement

Separate funding agreements for Streams 1 and 2 will be drawn up to be signed by successful applicants under each stream.

There is a recognition that organisations/groups/projects may need to have access to funds in advance of their proposed event/initiative in order to be able to deliver it. For payment of funds awarded under Stream 1, up to 100% can be made available in advance, following discussion with GDA and awardees. Funds awarded under Stream 2 can be paid in full in advance to awardees.

Grant awardees are required to return any unspent funds to the GDA.

The funding agreement will include a requirement that awardees provide the GDA with a brief summary report (including a table of expenditure) of their event/activity/initiative within 90 days of the event, along with images where appropriate once the event has been completed, for use by the GDA for publicity, communications and corporate governance purposes. Any final payment for Stream 1 may be contingent upon receipt of final summary and details of expenditure.

Where an awardee fails to provide the GDA with the required evidence of expenditure, the GDA reserves the right to seek to recoup any disbursed funds from the awardee.

11 Marketing

Successful candidates should include the GDA logo and the GDA Vibrant Community logo on their event's marketing collateral and publicity materials.

The support of the GDA Vibrant Community Fund should be acknowledged by speakers or MCs at events.

The GDA should be invited to any events supported by the GDA Vibrant Community Fund.

12 Monitoring and Review

The Head of People and Engagement will have overall responsibility for monitoring the Vibrant Community Fund and for its periodic review. A report on the Fund will be made available to the GDA Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) on an annual basis. The overall Fund and its workings will be reviewed every three years, and sooner if circumstances require it.

13 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The GDA takes its responsibilities under applicable data protection law, including the GDPR and implementing legislation ("Data Protection Law") very seriously. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the personal data relating to you that we may collect and use, and the uses (including disclosures to third parties) we may make of your personal data, in connection with the Vibrant Community Fund.

The GDA is the controller in respect of your data in connection with this Fund. For the purposes of this Funding application, we may collect and process the following personal data relating to you and your authorised contacts:

- Key contact data such as your name, address, contact number, email address, associated community group/s and signature.
- Further details such as group financial information, will be collected should your application be successful.

We will use your data to evaluate your application for funding, contact you regarding your application, comply with legal and regulatory obligations and to manage the Vibrant Community Fund. The information provided will be retained for audit purposes and as a record of Fund processes for up to 7 years after which this information will be deleted.

We will take appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your personal data from unauthorised access, loss or misuse. Please note that we may disclose your personal data to third parties who we engage with to provide services to us in connection with the Fund, such as outsourced service providers, IT services providers, professional advisers, and auditors.

If you have any questions about our use of your personal data, or wish to request a copy of your personal data that we hold, please contact us at: Grangegorman Development Agency, Floor 4 Park House, 191 North Circular Road, Dublin 7, D07 EWW4, or gdpr@ggda.ie.

If you are not happy with the way we have used your information or addressed your rights, you have the right to make a complaint to the Irish Data Protection Commission (<https://forms.dataprotection.ie/contact>).

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