



An Ghníomhaireacht
Airgeadais Tithíochta
Housing Finance Agency

Social Investment Fund Award Policy

June 2025



The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) is committed to contributing towards the social and economic fabric of communities through sponsorship of initiatives delivered by our customers.

Through the Social Investment Fund (SIF), the HFA supports local projects that complement housing schemes and nurture community development.

The core objectives of the SIF include:

- **Complementing housing developments** with supports and facilities that foster vibrant, inclusive communities.
- **Enhancing community wellbeing** with projects that improve the quality of life for local residents.
- **Supporting social inclusion** by backing initiatives that engage diverse groups in society, including residents in specialist housing, and encourage community engagement.
- **Encouraging innovation and environmental sustainability in communities** by promoting creative, forward-thinking and impactful projects.

A total fund of up to €500,000 has been made available for the 2025 SIF, with a maximum limit of €50,000 (excluding VAT) for any one application.

Eligibility criteria

All customers of the HFA are eligible to apply for funding.

This includes:

- Local Authorities
- Certified Approved Housing Bodies
- Higher Education Institutions

Please note: To be considered eligible, applicants must have either a pending loan application or an active loan agreement with the HFA at the time of application.

Eligible initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Refurbishments of community centres;
- The development of outdoor community spaces;
- Community-building activities and/or supports;
- Research projects and pilots;
- Leisure equipment;
- Community training/courses;
- Cultural initiatives with a clear social impact.

Application process

Applicants must submit a completed application form to sifapplications@hfa.ie.

Applicants must clearly articulate the rationale for their funding request, including how the proposed initiative aligns with the objectives of the Social Investment Fund.

Applicants should:

- Demonstrate the proposed initiative's potential positive impact on local communities;

- Have a detailed plan and timeline, including the overall finance costs of the project and details of contractors and/or service providers;
- Provide evidence of cover against any insurance costs or requirements and any insurance claims or operational or maintenance payments related to the proposed initiatives.

Note: Applicants seeking funding for a new role or operational costs (e.g. a community café) must outline long-term sustainability plans, including post-funding financial arrangements.

Co-funded applications, i.e. where the applicant contributes their own funds towards the initiative.

All applications will be reviewed and a final decision on SIF awards will be made by a selection committee before they are approved by the HFA Board.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application for funding. The HFA will contact the selected recipients using the contact information provided on this application. If the recipient does not respond within seven days of the first contact attempt, the funding offer may lapse.

Closing date for receipt of applications

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 1st August 2025.

Completed applications should be submitted by email to sifapplications@hfa.ie.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with community development goals and potential social impact
- Feasibility and sustainability of the project
- Quality and completeness of the application
- Evidence of co-funding or additional support (if not feasible without additional support beyond HFA contribution)
- Long-term viability, progress tracking and post-funding plans (e.g. ongoing maintenance of funded gardens/community spaces, next steps for research projects, continuity plans where resourcing is part-funded in application)

Further terms and conditions

Use of funds

- The approved funding may only be used towards the cost of the initiative proposed to the Housing Finance Agency and is not transferable to other projects. If there is evidence that the monies are used for other purposes the HFA will seek a refund of any contributions made to the customer up to that point;
- The HFA will only provide payments on receipt of proof of purchase for goods and/or services – payments can be made in stages as goods and services are procured;

Eligibility and Application Process

- The HFA reserves the right not to award any bursary if no applicant meets eligibility requirements;
- Social Investment Fund applicants may be required to provide additional details or attend an online interview as part of the application process;
- Applicants must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, including relationships with HFA staff or board members. Failure to disclose such information may result in disqualification.

Monitoring and Reporting

- Successful applications will be required to provide progress updates at quarterly intervals;

Liability and Insurance

- The HFA will not be responsible for any insurance or related claims, or operational or maintenance costs in relation to funded initiatives;
- Successful applicants may be required to provide the HFA with a statement indemnifying the HFA from any liability or related insurance requirements;

Publicity and Acknowledgement

- Where appropriate, approved projects must have a plaque prominently displayed, detailing the HFA's involvement in funding the project;
- The HFA reserves the right to use details of initiatives approved for funding for promotional purposes in press materials, on its social media channels and website, in its Annual Report and other suitable publications. Successful applicants will be asked to provide photographs, where appropriate, for these purposes; and
- Any promotion of funded initiatives should be done in collaboration with the HFA.

Data Protection

- All personal data submitted as part of the application process will be handled in accordance with the HFA's Data Protection Policy and relevant data protection legislation.