



An Ghníomhaireacht  
Airgeadais Tithíochta  
Housing Finance Agency

# Social Impact Fund Award Policy

June 2026



The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) supports strong, inclusive and sustainable communities through sponsorship of initiatives delivered by its customers.

The Social Impact Fund (SIF) provides once-off funding for projects that complement HFA-financed housing schemes and deliver clear, tangible benefit to communities living in or around those developments.

### **Funding Available**

A total fund of **€750,000** is available under the 2026 Social Impact Fund.

- The **maximum award** for any single application is **€75,000 (excluding VAT)**
- The **minimum award** available is **€5,000**

Funding may be used to support a standalone, one-off project or to supplement or enhance an existing or proposed initiative. In all cases, applications must clearly set out how the Social Impact Fund contribution will be used.

### **Objectives**

The Social Impact Fund aims to:

- Complement housing developments with supports and facilities that foster vibrant, inclusive communities;
- Enhance community wellbeing and improve quality of life for local residents;
- Support social inclusion by engaging diverse groups, including residents of specialist housing;
- Encourage innovation, creativity and environmental sustainability in community initiatives.

### **Impact and Delivery Expectations**

The Social Impact Fund is intended to support initiatives that deliver clear, tangible benefit to communities living in or around social and affordable housing.

Applications must demonstrate either:

- **Short-term impact**, for example a defined programme, pilot or initiative with a clear start and end point; or
- **Long-term impact**, for example the creation or enhancement of a lasting community asset.

Applicants should outline how this impact will be demonstrated in practice, using simple indicators where appropriate (e.g. participation levels, usage, feedback or outputs such as materials produced).

Projects should be deliverable within **24 months of award**. Where delivery does not commence or progress within agreed timeframes, the HFA reserves the right to withdraw funding.

### **Eligibility**

All customers of the HFA are eligible to apply, including:

- Local Authorities
- Approved Housing Bodies
- Higher Education Institutions

### **Non-customer AHBs**

A limited allocation of the SIF will be made available, on a pilot basis, to support a small number of high-quality applications from Approved Housing Bodies that are not currently customers of the HFA.

### **What the Fund May Be Used For**

Funding may be provided for clearly defined initiatives that align with the objectives of the Social Impact Fund, including (but not limited to):

- Refurbishment or enhancement of community centres or other community facilities;
- Development or improvement of outdoor or shared community spaces;
- Community-building activities and supports linked to housing developments;
- Youth initiatives with a clear social or community benefit;
- Research projects or pilot initiatives with defined outputs;
- Community training, education or cultural initiatives with a demonstrable social impact.

### **What the Fund May *Not* Be Used For**

The Social Impact Fund may **not** be used:

- To create, fund or part-fund a dedicated role, post or staff position;
- To cover core operational costs, routine service delivery or baseline budgets;
- To meet ongoing staffing, payroll or overhead costs;
- As a substitute for an applicant's existing funding responsibilities.

## **Application Requirements**

Applications must clearly demonstrate:

- Alignment with the objectives of the Social Impact Fund;
- The anticipated social or community impact of the proposal;
- A detailed project plan, timeline and overall budget;
- Confirmation that the project is feasible and deliverable, including any key approvals, permissions or dependencies (or a clear outline of how these will be secured);
- Plans for the ongoing sustainability and maintenance of the project beyond the period of Social Impact Fund support, where relevant;
- Where relevant, details of any contractors or service providers;
- Evidence of appropriate insurance cover.

Evidence of co-funding or additional support (where available) will be considered as an indicator of project feasibility, particularly where SIF funding alone would not be sufficient to deliver the initiative.

Applicants must also clearly state whether the project or programme would proceed if only partial funding were awarded, and, where applicable, explain how the scope, scale or delivery of the initiative would be adjusted.

## **Submission Process**

Completed application forms must be submitted by email to:

**[sifapplications@hfa.ie](mailto:sifapplications@hfa.ie)**

## **Assessment and Approval**

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee against the following criteria:

- Alignment with SIF objectives and anticipated community benefit;
- Feasibility and deliverability of the project, including the proposed timeline, details of co-funding and any key dependencies;
- Quality and clarity of the proposal, including how the Social Impact Fund contribution will be used and what it will deliver in practice;

- Clarity on how the impact of the project will be demonstrated, whether short-term (for example, a defined programme or initiative) or long-term (for example, a lasting community asset);
- Value for money, having regard to the scale and nature of the proposal.

All funding decisions are subject to approval by the HFA Board. All applicants will be notified of the outcome.

#### **Further Terms and Conditions (Summary)**

- Approved funding must be used solely for the initiative outlined in the application and is not transferable;
- Projects should be deliverable within **24 months of award**. Where delivery does not commence or progress within agreed timeframes, the HFA reserves the right to withdraw funding.
- Payments will be made on receipt of proof of expenditure and may be staged;
- The HFA will not be responsible for insurance, operational, maintenance or related liabilities;
- Successful applicants will be required to provide periodic progress updates and a final summary of outcomes at project completion;
- The HFA reserves the right to publish and promote details of approved projects, including for communications, reporting and transparency purposes;
- Approved projects are required to acknowledge HFA support in publicity or signage, where appropriate;
- All personal data will be processed in accordance with data protection legislation and HFA policy.