



# Apply to our Social Enterprise Development Fund

Cash grants

Training &  
business supports

Nationwide  
peer network

**RETHINK  
IRELAND**



**SLIGO**  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH

# WHAT IS THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND?

The Social Enterprise Development Fund is a €3.2 million Fund which is being delivered over four years; 2018–2022. An additional commitment of €1.6m in 2020, added to an original commitment of €1.6m in 2018, bringing the overall Fund to an investment of €3.2m in total, the most significant private investment in social enterprises to date. The Fund was created by Rethink Ireland, formerly Social Innovation Fund Ireland, in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and is funded by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Department of Rural and Community Development provides match funding for funds raised by Rethink Ireland, via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The objective of the Fund is to find and back social enterprises that add to the social and economic fabric of their community by way of social impact. The Fund will provide critical support to the most innovative and impactful social enterprises across Ireland, helping them to:

- » Increase their social impact
- » Increase their traded income
- » Create more jobs
- » Develop long-term, effective and sustainable solutions.

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social enterprises that add to  
the social and economic fabric  
of their community**

# WHAT DOES THE FUND OFFER?

## CASH GRANTS

In 2021, the fund will support up to 16 social enterprises with cash grants and a place on the Accelerator Programme:

- » Two cash grants of €50,000
- » Two cash grants of €30,000
- » Two cash grants of €20,000
- » Ten cash grants of €10,000

## ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

All successful applicants will win a place on Ireland's only National Accelerator Programme specifically designed for social enterprises. The Accelerator Programme will equip social enterprises with the skills they need to scale up and deepen their social impact.

The intensive and practical six-month programme provides training from best-in-class experts in the private, nonprofit and public sector on key functions such as Strategic Planning, Impact Measurement, Financial Management, Governance, Business Modelling, Pitching, Storytelling and more. The Accelerator Programme also includes the financing of bespoke business and mentoring supports tailored to the needs of each organisation, such as market research, marketing plans and online impact strategies.

## GENESIS PROGRAMME

The Genesis Programme will provide support to social enterprises who do not receive a cash grant. The attendees for the programme will be selected across Ireland, ensuring that the Social Enterprise Development Fund offers support to a social enterprise in every Local Authority area. The Genesis Programme will be an intensive two-day workshop that will focus on building the skills and knowledge needed to develop a sustainable social enterprise and to be successful in future funding opportunities.

## FURTHER INVESTMENT

At the end of the Accelerator Programme, all successful social enterprises will have the opportunity to pitch for a share of an additional €100,000.

This further investment will be awarded to the social enterprises that demonstrate the greatest potential for future impact and growth.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE FUND?

You must be a social enterprise with a not-for-profit legal form.

According to the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022, 'Social Enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact. Like other businesses, social enterprises trade in goods or services on an ongoing basis. However, any surpluses they generate are re-invested into achieving a social impact.'

The project must:

- » be up and running or tested in a minimum way;
- » address a critical social issue;
- » be innovative in an Irish context;
- » have the potential to be rolled out or replicated in Ireland, be based on the island of Ireland and;
- » have its main impact in the Republic of Ireland

## HOW TO APPLY TO THE FUND

### STAGE 1

Applications are open from Thursday 21st January until Friday 5th March 2021. Applicants are invited to complete a short application form which will be used to identify a shortlist of applicants who have met the basic minimum criteria.

### STAGE 2

Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to complete a more detailed application form. The submission deadline for the second stage of the application is Thursday 1st April 2021.

**Find out more about the Fund and how to apply**

## ABOUT RETHINK IRELAND

Rethink Ireland is a national organisation supporting Ireland's best social innovations through cash grants and business supports.

Our purpose is to make Ireland a better, more inclusive place through social innovation.

Every euro we raise in philanthropy is matched by the Department of Rural and Community Development (and more recently additional Departments) via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

**Our mission is to provide growth capital to support the best social innovations in Ireland**

**SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND 2021**

**APPLY BY  
5th MARCH  
2021**

**ENTERPRISE  
+ SOCIAL CAPITAL**  

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**= IMPACT**

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