



## **Community Safety Innovation Fund (CSIF)**

### **Application Criteria**

#### **Objective**

The Community Safety Innovation Fund (CSIF) supports the work of the Community Safety Partnerships and other policy initiatives of the Department of Justice in the areas of Community Safety and Youth Justice. The initial outlay of the fund was €2 million in 2022 and will be €3 million in 2023.

The Community Safety Innovation Fund:

- Allows proceeds of crime to be directed into community projects to support community safety
- Ensures that the most appropriate proposals to improve community safety receive the funding they require
- Encourages the development of innovative proposals to improve community safety from those people who best understand local community safety needs
- Allows best practice on community safety and youth justice to be shared with other partnerships and communities nationally as new proposals are developed
- Reflects and highlights the success of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in seizing the proceeds from criminal activity

Proposals could include activities intended to:

- tackle crime or reduce the fear of crime; improve community safety and feelings of safety
- support the creation of safe and resilient communities
- reduce re-offending
- divert vulnerable individuals away from engagement in criminal behaviour

#### **Size of Grants**

Grants will be in the range of €20,000 - €150,000. Smaller or larger grants may be considered on merit on an exceptional basis.

#### **Call for Applications**

Applications will be invited from existing community safety initiatives as well as groups co funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice. Applications may be submitted by individual organisations, or by a consortium involving two or more organisations where the lead partner is a community organisation, not-for-profit, social enterprise or similar with a remit relevant to community safety and/or youth justice. Applications with innovative approaches will be afforded particular consideration.

### **Application Criteria**

- Applications may be for either once-off initiatives or short to medium term projects limited to two years. Project activities must be additional to the usual business of the applicant organisation and should complement but not replace mainstream structures or funding streams at local level
- Allowable expenditure includes salaries as part of a wider proposal once costs are apportioned in relation to the overall proposal, would not duplicate existing roles and are for a defined and temporary duration. Applications will not be accepted for the creation or support of long-term positions. Duplication of funding is not permitted
- Applications for capital funding costs; e.g. high value items (vehicles, fixed assets) and infrastructure/building schemes will only be considered if they are integral to the proposal itself and appropriately apportioned; lower value items, for example equipment, will be considered on the same terms
- In determining the overall allocation of grants, the Department may have regard to the need to achieve a balanced geographical spread of activities

Applications from the following are not eligible:

- Applications from individuals or private sector businesses
- Applications for repeat or regular events and existing activities or repeat funding of projects previously funded by the Department of Justice or CSIF except where the applicant provides evidence of ongoing need or extenuating circumstances that the panel may wish to consider
- Applications for activities which would properly be included in a Youth Diversion Project (YDP) Annual Plan, even if the application is by a different youth service to that already funded under the YDP programme
- Applications for statutory service delivery which should normally be undertaken within the remit of a statutory service delivery organisation
- Applications for schemes that are already funded or delivered through another Service Provider such as the following (this is not an exhaustive list):

[Department of Justice – Community Based CCTV Grant Aid Scheme Information and Documentation](#)

[Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media - Sports Capital and Equipment Programme](#)

[Department of Rural and Community Development - Community Centres Investment Fund](#)

- Applications for detached youth workers in the absence of an innovative element.
- Applications for the creation or support of long-term paid positions
- Applications for capital costs for sporting/ community centre grounds improvement in the absence of an innovative element
- Applications for activities outside of Ireland or by organisations that are not based in, or do not have an existing presence in Ireland. Initiatives with a North-South cross-border component in Ireland may be considered based on merit, when the primary applicant organisation is based in Ireland.

### **Application Assessment**

The criteria against which grant applications will be assessed includes the following:

1. Degree to which the planned outcomes are innovative, meet the goals of the scheme and the strategic fit (35% of Assessment)

- How well the proposed initiative has considered community safety and youth justice and the intended impact of the initiative. Whether the proposed project has identified both a gap in community safety and youth justice and a priority need to address that gap
- How well the proposed project would meet that need/address that gap and how feasible and sustainable the impact of the proposed initiative is in achieving positive outcomes
- How the proposed project would benefit community safety and youth justice with particular regard to disadvantaged communities, rural areas and groups at risk of marginalisation and multiple discrimination where relevant

2. Overall strength of project proposal by reference to planned activities (35% of Assessment)

- The quality of the proposal and approach
- The quality of the project outcomes
- Potential to mainstream the project and/or contribute learning to the community safety field

- Previous experience in outcome delivery

### 3. Financial management, governance and value for money (30% of Assessment)

- Appropriateness of governance and financial viability of the applicant organisation
- Achievement of maximum output for the proposed budget
- Clear and well-structured budget

#### **Project Assessment**

An application form must be completed and submitted before the published closing date and additional supporting information submitted if requested. All applications will be screened to determine their completeness and the eligibility of the applicant organisation. Applications deemed complete and eligible will then be fully assessed and scored in accordance with the marking scheme set out below.

<b>Community Safety Innovation Fund Award Criteria</b>	<b>Marks Available</b>
<p><b>Innovative approach, strategic fit &amp; achieving goals of the scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How well the project meets the CSIF criteria</li> <li>• Whether the project represents an innovative approach</li> <li>• Whether the project has identified both a gap in an area related to community safety and/or youth justice and a priority need to address that gap</li> <li>• How well the proposed project would meet that need and how feasible and sustainable the impact of the proposed solution is in benefiting the community</li> <li>• How the proposed project would benefit the community, with reference where appropriate to disadvantaged persons, people in rural areas, and groups at risk of marginalisation and multiple discrimination</li> </ul>	<b>35</b>
<p><b>Strength of project proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of proposal and approach demonstrating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence of need</li> <li>- How the planned project/activities will improve services and enhance community safety</li> <li>- Clear, attainable and measurable targets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quality of anticipated project outcomes</li> <li>• Potential to mainstream the project and/or contribute learning to the community safety field</li> <li>• Previous experience of the applicant</li> </ul>	<b>35</b>
<p><b>Financial management, governance and value for money</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and well-structured budget</li> <li>• Achievement of maximum output for the proposed budget</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrated need for funding from the CSIF rather than alternative funding sources</li><li>• Costs are in line with market norms</li><li>• Appropriate governance and financial viability of the applicant organisation</li><li>• Added value/benefits that the project will deliver</li></ul> |  |
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