

## Community Recognition Fund 2024

The Community Recognition Fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in cities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme.

The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

<b>Galway City Council 2024 CRF</b>	€1,702,897
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The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland.

## GCC projects 2023 CRF

Location	Proposal	Amount allocated / Current Status
Glen Oaks / Droim Chaoin	Refurbishment of Multi Use Games Area / and development of new community park at Droim Chaoin	€82,000 – Est Complete Q3 2024
Sports Fields Various locations	Purchase and installation of Box Up kits at sports facilities at Miller's Lane, Cappagh Park, Salthill Park, McGraths Field, Crestwood, The Plots, South Park, Glen Oaks,	€230,000 – Est Complete Q4 2024

	Ballybane, O'Sullivan Park Mervue.	
Crestwood	Upgrade and refurbishment of community facility / club house	€206,918 – Est Complete Q4 2024
Corrib Park	Astro pitch surface replacement / lighting provision. Additional facilities for Grass Pitch development including toilets and changing rooms	€204,000 – Est Complete Q3 2024
Westside	Westside running track floodlights	€89,000 – Est Complete Q3 2024
Westside Boxing Club	Purchase of equipment	€5,000 <b>Complete 2023</b>
Claddagh Pitches South Park	Installation of pitch walkway lighting for recreation use	€40,000 <b>Complete 2023</b>
O'Sullivan Park Mervue	Installation of environmentally sensitive bollard lighting around the park walkway to increase use and enjoyment and enhance overall accessibility.	€220,000 Est Complete Q4 2024
Salthill	Installation of power supply to facilitate community events at area next to main car park	€35,000 – Est. Complete Q2 2024
Leisureland Salthill	Repair and maintenance to PVC Roof, Recover Building 3, M&E Air Handling units to be replaced (refurbishment and energy efficiency works)	€379,404 – Est Complete Q4 2024
The Manse Nun's Island	Refurbishment of the Manse Nun's Island cultural centre	€140,000 – Est Complete Q4 2024
St Nicholas Church	Purchase and installation of new lighting system for	€140,000 – Est Complete Q3 2024

	exterior of iconic city centre building and development of Wellness Garden / Oasis in the city centre	
Black Box Theatre	Purchase and installation of new accessible ramp	€25,000 – Est Complete Q2 2024
Galway City Museum	Purchase of audio – visual equipment for intercultural education programmes	€15,000 – <b>Complete 2023</b>
Galway's Westend	Purchase of equipment for Access for All pilot scheme in Galway's Westend	€5,000 – Est Complete Q2 2024

### Engagement with Communities

Funding proposals submitted by each local authority are to be developed based on direct engagement with impacted communities and in consultation with the Municipal Districts, Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the local Community Response Fora. Proposals should also be consistent with Local Economic and Community Plans.

The proposal also has to demonstrate that the funding is targeted at and specifically invested in those cities, towns and villages where the highest level of new arrivals are located and where there is a clear need for investment identified.

### Eligible Projects

Projects to be funded will be capital in nature, deliver medium-long term benefits for the communities in which they are located, and be capable of being **delivered over the course of 2025 and 2026**. A minimum spend of 50% of the allocation must be incurred in 2025. Eligible projects will receive funding for capital costs, but not for any ongoing operational or running costs.

The minimum level of funding for an individual project is €50,000 with a maximum of €500,000 applying. Smaller projects cannot be artificially combined to meet the minimum threshold of €50,000 – while the 2023 scheme provided funding for small scale investment in clubs and communities (e.g. for small scale equipment), the focus of the 2024 scheme is on projects of greater scale and impact.

Local authorities have scope to invest the funding based on their own distinct local needs as identified through a “bottom-up” approach and based on the community engagement referenced above.

However, the type of projects eligible for funding are:

- development, enhancement or refurbishment of community or cultural facilities including play areas, walkways, parks, community/sensory gardens, allotments, and recreational areas;
- development, enhancement or refurbishment of local club and sports facilities including facilities such as community swimming pools, changing rooms, toilets, digital aids such as score / information boards etc.;
- enhancement to school/parish facilities which are open to use by all of the community after school hours;
- purchase of equipment for local clubs, festivals, community events and organisations e.g. music, arts or sports equipment;
- transport infrastructure such as the purchase of community vehicles, bus shelters and attendant information boards; (any vehicle funded must be in good condition and not more than 5 years old)
- projects that help address dereliction and/or wider local economic and community development objectives;
- purchase and refurbishment of vacant or derelict buildings for community use where a clear need is identified.
- Purchase of land and associated works for the development of community facilities such as play areas/ MUGAs or town parks/ community gardens, recreational areas etc. (purchases must only be administered by the local authority).

### **Timeline for Delivery**

An important difference in this 2024 Community Recognition Fund is a move away from the original approach where local authorities sent in a single list of projects for approval.

In order to address changes in the numbers and locations of new arrivals during 2024, each local authority must reserve at least 20% of their allocation for the submission of a proposal under the third application window. The application windows are as follows:

<b>Application window 1</b>	Up to 31st May 2024
<b>Application window 2</b>	1st August to 30th September 2024
<b>Application window 3 (minimum 20% of allocation ring-fenced)</b>	1st January 2025 to 31st January 2025