

Frequently Asked Questions

How do we make an application?

Go to the application portal [here](#).



QR Code

How does our group apply for funding?

SECAD Partnership CLG (the Grant Making Organisation or GMO), will open each of the three phases of the fund to accept applications. When open, each potential applicant will be required to:

Complete the application form.

Follow the guidelines and fill in all sections of the application form with relevant information.

Provide supporting information as applicable.

Submit the application form and supporting information to SECAD.

How does our group claim the grant?

Grants from the Funds are made 50% of the contract value upfront and 50% retrospectively. Once the contract has been agreed and signed by both parties, SECAD will transfer 50% of the contract amount to the group / organisation bank account nominated by the applicant. The final payment 50% will only be made available to an organisation upon completion of their proposed project. For the final 50% of grant aid to be paid out, you must submit a grant claim form and other necessary supporting documentation as stated within the form itself. Incomplete claims will result in delays processing your grant.

How much can my group apply?

You can apply for between €500 and €125,000. This is to make sure a wide range of community organisations can benefit from this fund.

In most cases, €125,000 is the most funding we will allocate. This can be either in one single awarded grant or a total of €125,000 across the three phases.

We may consider an exception to the maximum grant amount for a single application or all together across each phase, for a significant, high-impact, area-wide project or initiative.

While communities can submit multiple applications, we encourage individual organisations to submit only one application.

How to accept a grant offer?

In order to accept a grant offer all contracts must be signed and returned via an online signature platform within 15 working days of receipt. By signing and returning, you are agreeing to a number of terms, and conditions which may be contained within the contract. Please read your contract carefully and contact SECAD if you have any questions relating to it.

How will applications be appraised?

An evaluation panel will assess all applications and make sure there is a fair and objective distribution of grants and grant value amounts, across the scheme area. This evaluation panel will be led by SECAD Partnership and will include representatives from EirGrid and independent evaluators.

When selecting who benefits, we aim to choose organisations that will gain the most from these grants.

The evaluation panel will try to make sure that the benefits of the fund are received by communities in the defined Area of Benefit. They will consider the geographic spread of applications. The panel will also try to make sure that a broad mixture of projects and project values are funded. The funded projects should serve a wide range of people.

Is it possible to receive feedback on an application?

SECAD Partnership works in cooperation with EirGrid. They take care to assess all applications against criteria in a consistent and fair way.

Although decisions are final, if your application is unsuccessful, you can ask SECAD Partnership for feedback.

We welcome all observations and feedback on the process. Please download a feedback form or access it on our website. Once complete, please email it to info@secad.ie and we will respond to you.

What are the themes / areas of focus for the funds?

The project must benefit the community and improve the quality of life in the area under the themes of:

- Biodiversity
- Sustainability
- Community.

The benefits must be clearly outlined in the application.

What is the Area of Benefit (AOB)?

We will give priority to projects within 2 kilometres of the cable line. Please see the map [linked here](#) outlining the 2km area from the cable line. This area is called the Area of Benefit.

However, in areas where the nearest main service centre is outside the 2km zone, we may consider projects and initiatives if you can prove they will directly benefit residents within the Area of Benefit. A service centre could include a community centre or a resource centre, where a service or facility is being providing to the wider community.

What supporting documentation is needed?

The supporting documentation required for each application depends largely on the type of project you are seeking support for. However, at a minimum you will be asked to provide the following:

A copy of your organisation's bank, credit union or post office account statement header

Quotations are required to verify the value of each item you wish to purchase, as follows:

Up to €5,000.00 – 1 quote.

Over €5,000.00 – 3 quotes.

For works relating to renovation/construction/refurbishment:

Permission to proceed from land owner.

Planning permission, or a letter of exemption from the relevant Local Authority.

For expenditure in excess of €10,000.00 tax clearance must be available for both the applicant and service provider.

When, and how will we be notified of a decision?

In most cases, applicants will be notified of a decision being made by November 2023. Successful applicants will receive a Provisional Letter of Offer and Contract, which will outline any conditions relating to the grant offer. Please digitally sign your contract, along with any requested documentation via email. The GMO may also request additional information to be provided in order for your application to be reconsidered.

Who can apply for support?

The fund is open to:

- community groups
- not-for-profit organisations
- social enterprises.

When applying you need to show how you would use the funds to benefit your community and the environment around the cable line.

Who do we contact about the EirGrid Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Funds?

SECAD Partnership CLG administers the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund on behalf of EirGrid.

Contact details for SECAD are as follows:

Phone – 021 461 3432

Email: info@secad.ie

Web: www.secad.ie

Post: SECAD Partnership CLG Midleton Community Enterprise Centre Owennacurra Business Park
Knockgriffin Midleton Co. Cork P25 Y893