

# LAOIS KILKENNY COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

## Frequently Asked Questions

**a) Is the fund a once off fund or is there more to come in due course?**

This is a once off fund. The fund amount is calculated on the voltage and length of the new electricity transmission line which was constructed in the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project area. In 2024 we are opening Phase 2 of funding to applications. Updates as to when Phase 3 will be opening will be communicated in line with project progress.

**b) If not successful this time around, will it be possible to apply for funding in the future?**

If you are not successful in this phase of funding, you will be eligible to apply to Phase 3 round of funding.

**c) Can the EirGrid Community Benefit Fund co-fund a project that is receiving other funding?**

Yes – we are happy to co-fund projects. However, we would like to clearly see what additional value and impact the EirGrid funding will bring to your organisation, and a clear breakdown of what the EirGrid funds will be used for.

If you are awaiting confirmation that you will receive an alternative grant, we recommend you make your application with the assumption the grant will come through, but we would strongly suggest you include a contingency plan for how you would use the EirGrid funds or deliver your project if the co-funding grant is not received.

As projects must be completed within 12 months of grant offer, groups will need to consider if notification of other funding applications will be received in time in order to deliver the project within the fund deadlines.

**d) We are a Primary School and do not see ourselves as being fully funded by the Department of Education. Can we apply under this scheme?**

This fund is to support community services and is not intended to replace government services.

We cannot directly fund schools; however, we can fund projects proposed by volunteer led organisations such as Parent's Associations.

**e) We are 4km from the line according to your map. Can we still apply?**

Yes – but applicants should show on their application that the communities they serve are within the 3km boundary. This is to ensure that the funding goes to the areas and communities most impacted by the new electricity infrastructure.

We will assess each application on a case-by-case basis. If the funding applications exceed the amount of funding available, there will be priority given to those within the 3km boundary.

**f) Do we need to provide 3 quotes for equipment?**

One quote will be required for items or activities under €5,000. Three quotes will be required for items or activities above €5,000.

**g) If a single project has more than one tender (e.g. roof, electrical, doors, windows etc) will one over all quote be sufficient or do we have to get three tenders for each different aspect of the project?**

Three quotes from contractors which cover all aspects of the project will be accepted. If it is not possible to acquire inclusive quotes, then we will require three quotes for each aspect of the project.

**h) Is it sufficient to submit a priced Bill of Quantities, prioritised for the different items of work that we intend to carry out, with the original application, and then when the decision has been made on what items will be grant aided we would send in three quotations for those items?**

No - we would like to see the total amount of funding required for the project clearly outlined. Please see Question (g) above for further details on quotation requirements.

**i) If a pilot project was to be initiated, can that include a staff cost?**

Individual staff costs are not eligible for funding.

**j) Can a group submit multiple applications for different projects?**

Groups / organisations may only submit one application. We recommend projects are grouped together into one application.

**k) Is it possible for more than one person to access the online application form?**

There can only be one registered user per application form so we recommend you share the login details for access to the form.

**l) Will there be any oral presentation or interview required to obtain funding?**

There is no requirement for an oral presentation or interview, however where we have queries or require clarification, we may request a meeting or call. Applicants are also encouraged to upload photos, videos, designs etc. in support of their application on the application portal.

**m) Is the grant paid in advance against invoices, or retrospectively against receipts?**

Grants will be paid out retrospectively against receipts. Groups must fund the project costs first and then claim the grant award payment by submitting a Grant Drawdown Form with documentation such as invoices/receipts, bank statements, photos and other documentation which will be outlined in the information document which you will receive if awarded a grant.

**n) Can we apply to the Fund if we are stilling waiting on planning permission?**

Projects will need to have planning permission in place in order to be considered for funding.

**o) If we are member of a national network, can we use their constitution?**

Yes

**p) If we are member of a national network, can we use their charity number?**

Yes