

Community Foundation Ireland: Call for Budget Actions to Empower Communities (<https://www.activelink.ie/node/109980>)

Community Foundation Ireland identifies steps to support climate action, equality, and the provision of essential services

Pre-Budget Submission Launched

A new National Climate Action Endowment Fund, pilot county funds to address local needs and proposals to grow legacy giving to levels seen in Britain are the main actions put forward by Community Foundation Ireland in a pre-Budget submission.

The actions are informed by almost 25-years' experience during which the Foundation has grown €1M in Government seed money into over €130M in grant-making to support a mission of 'Equality For All In Thriving Communities.'

Since year 2000, more than 5,000 voluntary, community and charitable groups have benefitted from strategic philanthropic grants which are intended to deliver long-term results.

The funding has been used to achieve major policy changes on sexual violence, the rights of women and children, migrants, Travellers and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Foundation played a key role in growing philanthropic funding to respond to those impacted by immigration, the cost of living and Covid-19.

In its submission, the Foundation says the proposals are also in line with the Government's first National Policy on Philanthropy which was published last December with the intention of bringing the levels of private giving here in line with other countries.

The submission 'Empowering Communities' proposes:

- Establish a National Climate Action Endowment Fund, which will partner public and philanthropic funding (€10M from Government, €10M from Philanthropy) to future proof community engagement and awareness raising on the need for climate action
- Deliver five Pilot Local Funds which will partner public and philanthropic funding (€5M from Government plus €5M from Philanthropy) to address essential needs, including local services, in communities
- Incentivise and promote Legacy Giving to generate a potential €160M for communities each year by introducing Capital Acquisitions Tax (CAT) relief when a person receiving a gift of inheritance donates at least €1M to philanthropy

Publishing the submission, Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of Community Foundation Ireland added:

"Through our partnerships and connectivity with communities we have a record of delivering significant positive social change. From protecting our planet to combatting poverty, protecting the rights of minorities and those at risk of discrimination, violence and hate we have been a partner, convenor and catalyst for change.

Yet despite our successes and the more than €130M provided in grants by our supporters and donors since 2000, we know too that the full potential of Irish philanthropy has not been leveraged. The first National Policy on Philanthropy has given us that opportunity and the Foundation is proposing three key actions to advance that.

If we seize that opportunity now then key resources to address some of the biggest challenges we face such as rising hate crimes, the climate emergency and poverty gaps could be realised to achieve the equality we all desire."

Region

Nationwide

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Attachment**Size**

[Empowering Sustainable Communities Proposal from Community Foundation Ireland \(1\).pdf](#)

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