

# Apply to our Social Enterprise Funds



CASH GRANTS

TRAINING &  
BUSINESS SUPPORTS

NATIONWIDE  
PEER NETWORK

**RETHINK  
IRELAND** Our  
Social  
Innovation  
Fund



 ciste na  
gcuntas diomhaoin  
the dormant  
accounts fund



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

# ABOUT RETHINK IRELAND

Rethink Ireland is a national organisation supporting Ireland's best social innovations through cash grants and business supports.

Our purpose is to make Ireland a better, more inclusive place through social innovation.

Every euro we raise in philanthropy is matched by the Department of Rural and Community Development (and more recently additional Departments) via the Dormant Accounts Fund.



Our mission is to provide growth capital to support the best social innovations in Ireland.

# WHAT IS THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND?

The Social Enterprise Development Fund 2022/23 is a €1.2m Fund created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and supported by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund. This partnership began in 2018 with an original commitment of €1.6m followed by a further €1.6m in 2020. The total investment of €4.4m represents the most significant private investment in social enterprises to date. This Fund will be a further €1.2m over the next two years and strengthen the focus on providing vital supports to early-stage social enterprises with the development of a new business course and a clear pathway for social enterprises looking to build their businesses.

The objective of the Fund is to find and back social enterprises that add to the social and economic fabric of their community by way of social impact.

The Fund will provide critical support to the most innovative and impactful social enterprises across Ireland, helping them to:

- Increase their social impact
- Increase their traded income
- Create more jobs
- Develop long-term, effective and sustainable solutions.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund finds and backs social enterprises that add to the social and economic fabric of their community

## WHAT DOES THE FUND OFFER?

This iteration of the Social Enterprise Development Fund will take a more holistic focus on the social enterprise ecosystem in Ireland. It will address issues related to (financial) support offerings not always matching the needs of social enterprises as well as the need to support unsuccessful early stage applicants.

A business course, as well as targeted funding and supports, will be on offer to social enterprises at a number of stages of development.

## WHAT DO AWARDEES RECEIVE?

Up to 8 social enterprises will receive a package of supports worth €30,000 each in total. This will include:

### CASH GRANTS

Cash grants of €22,500 paid in two instalments upon delivery of agreed milestones.

### ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

All successful applicants will win a place on Ireland's first National Accelerator Programme specifically designed for social enterprises. The Accelerator Programme will equip social enterprises with the skills they need to scale up and deepen their social impact.

The intensive and practical six-month programme provides training from best-in-class experts in the private, nonprofit and public sector on key functions such as Strategic Planning, Impact Measurement, Financial Management, Governance, Business Modelling, Pitching, Storytelling and more.

### BUSINESS SUPPORT

Awardees will also receive a budget for business supports worth €7,500 each. Business supports will be tailored to the specific needs of each project and carried out by approved consultants, focusing on creating social impact in line with their theory of change and strategic plan.

# WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE FUND?

You must be a social enterprise with a not-for-profit legal form.

According to the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022, 'Social Enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact. Like other businesses, social enterprises trade in goods or services on an ongoing basis. However, any surpluses they generate are re-invested into achieving a social impact.'

We are seeking applications from social enterprises that:

- Have a clear social mission that addresses a critical social issue
- Generate income from goods or services
- Are already up and running
- Reinvest any surplus into achieving their mission
- Have a not-for-profit legal form
- Are separate from Government and State Agencies
- Have their main impact in the Republic of Ireland

This Fund is particularly seeking applications from social enterprises that have created a total income of over €100,000 in 2021.



## HOW TO APPLY TO THE FUND

Applications are open from 20th January until 3rd March. Applicants are invited to complete an application form which will be used to identify a shortlist of applicants who have met the basic minimum criteria. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to an interview.

To find out more, visit our [website](#)

# START A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUSINESS COURSE

A social enterprise starts with an individual or group recognising a societal problem and having an idea they believe will solve the problem. A social innovator wants to solve the problem, which can be local, regional or national, with innovation, have a positive impact on those affected and undertake the work as a not for profit. In 2022, the Fund will offer places on a first of its kind Start a Social Enterprise Business Course. This course will take an emerging idea and give the participants the tools to take the idea to the next stage. It will be the launch pad for the idea and also, importantly, a pathway to additional supports.

The course will be aimed at:

- Idea stage social enterprises (vague ideas included; teasing them out will be part of the course)
- Unincorporated individuals or groups undertaking work at a local level

- Staff within organisations who want to explore the establishment of a social enterprise within their organisation

The business course will be held online over two months and run twice during 2022 for up to 50 participants. The seven modules will equip participants with the skills and tools to make informed decisions regarding the start up of their social enterprise. Those that are ready to start a social enterprise and have attended all seven modules, can, upon completion of the course, apply for cash grants. Up to five graduates from each course will receive an Award. Places on the course will be awarded on a first come basis.



# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE START-UP FUND

## WHAT IS THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE START-UP FUND?

The Social Enterprise Start-up Fund is an €800,000 Fund delivered over two years: 2021 – 2022. The Fund was created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The objective of the Fund is to support social enterprises at the start-up / early stage of their life cycle, to embed strong business principles and, in turn, deliver social impact, create jobs and inspire an emerging, next generation of Irish social enterprises.

The Fund will provide critical support to the most innovative and impactful start-up social enterprises across Ireland, supporting them to:

- Build a plan to grow their social enterprise,
- Map their key stakeholders and customers,
- Create networks within the social enterprise sector,
- Increase their financial sustainability,
- Communicate their vision and mission to a wider audience.

Up to 20 Awardees will receive a package consisting of a cash grant of €10,000 each, as well as a package of business supports worth €4,500 each and a place on the Accelerator Programme.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE FUND?

We are seeking applications from social enterprises who

- Address a critical social issue in an innovative way in the Republic of Ireland
- Have passed the idea stage
- Are of a not for profit nature,
- Have created some traded income to date and
- Have created less than €100,000 income in total in 2021

## HOW TO APPLY TO THE FUND

Applications are open from 28th January until 3rd March. Applicants are invited to complete an application form on our website.

To find out more, visit our [website](#)

**SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND 2022**

Apply by 3rd  
March 2022

**SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
START-UP  
FUND**

Apply by 3rd  
March 2022

**START A  
SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
BUSINESS  
COURSE**

Apply by 11th  
March 2022

**ENTERPRISE  
+ SOCIAL CAPITAL  
= IMPACT**

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