



What Works In Communities Fund (2026)

Terms and Conditions

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Purpose of this Document | 2 |
| Assessment Process | 2 |
| Award and Use of Funding | 2 |
| Project Reporting | 3 |
| Requirements Beyond Conclusion of Contract | 4 |
| Acknowledgements | 4 |
| Intellectual Property/Knowledge Transfer | 5 |
| Cessation of Award | 5 |
| Data Protection | 5 |
| Ethics Considerations | 5 |
| Other Legislative Requirements | 6 |



Purpose of this Document

- This document outlines the Terms and Conditions of the 2026 “What Works In Communities Fund”, run by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).
- **Applicants are required to read this Terms and Conditions document, together with the associated Guidance Note, before submitting applications.** A clear understanding of these two documents will assist the applicant to understand the process and avoid a risk of disqualification due to non-compliance.
- These two documents form part of the basis of the funding agreement between DCDE and the successful applicants (also referred to as “Grantees”). Additional documents such as the grantee’s application and other documents as agreed between DCDE and the grantee may also form part of the agreement.

Assessment Process

- As part of the assessment process;
 - a shortlisting process may apply, and
 - applicants may be interviewed.
- A letter of award and an Award Acceptance Form will issue to Grantees. By signing the Award Acceptance Form, Grantees will be confirming their agreement to this Fund’s Terms and Conditions, as outlined in this document and the separate Guidance Note.

Award and Use of Funding

- Awards under this scheme will only commence once a signed Award Acceptance Form has been received by DCDE. The award of funding is held subject to the Fund’s Terms and Conditions. If any of these are breached by the Grantee, DCDE may suspend or terminate the award and/or may require reimbursement of such payments as have already been made to the Grantee. All awards may be subject to an external research audit and/or a financial audit.
- The award of funding to Grantees will be managed by Pobal. Upon receipt of a blank Beneficiary Drawdown Request form from Pobal, Grantees must return to Pobal a fully completed and signed form within 10 working days. Please note **Pobal is acting only as payment intermediary** by processing the payment of the funding. **DCDE, What Works and Dormant Accounts are the funders and are the only entities that should be referenced as per the Acknowledgements section of this document.**



- Awards are intended only to fund project activities as presented in the application form. DCDE also reserves the right to recoup monies that have been expended on ineligible costs, as set out in the Guidance Note.
- Awards may not be held or continued at an organisation other than the applicant organisation(s) specified in the application form, except with the prior agreement of DCDE.
- Grantees must comply with the [Statement of Principles for Grantees of Circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds](#).
- **Payments are subject to compliance with the public procurement guidelines. Non-compliance may result in financial sanctions.** This measure has been designed to take account of the Dormant Accounts Guiding Principles.

Project Reporting

- It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify DCDE in writing (by emailing WhatWorks@dcde.gov.ie) of any changes to its contact details.
- At any time over the course of the contract, Grantees may be contacted to provide updates on the project to DCDE. Grantees are required to provide a swift response to these requests and agree that this information can be used for reporting and promotional purposes.
- Grantees will be required to provide DCDE with progress reports on their projects, as outlined in “Project Reporting” section of the separate Guidance Note. It is the responsibility of the Grantee to ensure that progress reports are filed by the specified due dates.
- In the event that a Grantee fails to file progress reports by the specified dates, or submits an unsatisfactory progress report, DCDE reserves the right to terminate awards and/or seek reimbursement of grant monies already paid where necessary and without prejudice.
- All resources, reports, tools and publications produced as part of the project must be shared with DCDE and **will be considered for publication on the *What Works* website and/or for sharing with third party organisations for information sharing and/or evaluation purposes**. Grantees may also consider the creation of other resources, such as images and videos, for inclusion on the *What Works* website and presentation at events/seminars/webinars. Please refer to the “Data Protection” section for guidance.
- Grantees are required, on request, to provide access to relevant records including expenditure profiles, cash profiles, regular management accounts and annual audited accounts. Submission of evidence of spend may also be required by DCDE including relevant invoices, receipts and other back-up documentation.



Requirements Beyond Conclusion of Contract

- Beyond conclusion of the contract, Grantees must make themselves available, at a time that is mutually convenient for all parties, to:
 - Contribute to an overall evaluation of the What Works In Communities Fund. This may involve the completion of a survey, participation in an interview/focus group, or involvement in some other method of information-gathering conducted by DCDE or a contracted researcher.
 - Participate in and/or contribute to future What Works seminars to promote shared learning.
 - Attend relevant learning events/workshops to promote best practice in the future
 - All of the above will be pro bono.

Acknowledgements

- All materials (including but not limited to reports, press releases, statements, speeches, reports, infographics, videos, social media posts, advertisements, launches or related events, learning materials) related to the project must include a statement that the project *“is supported by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality as part of the What Works Initiative, which is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund”*.
- All materials must also incorporate the DCDE, What Works and the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) logos. **The logos should be located on the cover page of all reports, be reasonably prominent, and be at least the same size as any other logos.**
- Where required for events, physical pullups and props can be supplied by DCDE on request by contacting WhatWorks@dcde.gov.ie.
- Grantees are also required to notify DCDE in advance of their:
 - Participation in any significant events
 - Attaining an award of significant merit
 - Substantial participation in events of national interest



Intellectual Property/Knowledge Transfer

- DCDE does not make any claim to intellectual property arising from the Award.
- **All resources, tools and publications developed as a result of the funding will be made freely available for use by all Government Departments and State Agencies.**

Cessation of Award

- Should a Grantee be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue their proposal in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the scheme, they must inform DCDE (WhatWorks@dcde.gov.ie) within two weeks of such a situation coming to their attention. In such situations, DCDE will have regard to the usual conventions of the Grantee organisation. However, given the basis on which grants are awarded, DCDE reserves the right to withdraw the award.
- DCDE recognises that, for personal or professional reasons, a Grantee under this scheme may wish to terminate the project. This should not be done without prior consultation with DCDE, as it may involve reimbursement by the Grantee to DCDE of some or all funding made available up to the date of termination. Awards may not be deferred or transferred.

Data Protection

- Any data collection or processing undertaken for the project must be GDPR compliant. DCDE requests that all applicable national and EU data protection laws, regulations and guidelines are adhered to.
- Information and data security should be managed with reasonable efforts to restrict unauthorised access in accordance with relevant legislation. Please ensure that personnel in your organisation who are working on this project are fully aware of the risks associated with information and data security issues in compliance with relevant legislation.

Ethics Considerations

- Grantees may require ethical approval from a Research Ethics Committee (REC) before conducting their proposed evaluation. **DCDE does not have and cannot facilitate access to an REC.** The responsibility for securing ethical approval rests with the applicant. Please refer to the Guidance Note for further details.



Other Legislative Requirements

- In addition to the Terms and Conditions outlined in this document and the associated Guidance Note, Grantees must also comply with all relevant procedures and legislation. These include but are not limited to:
 - Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance;
 - National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012;
 - Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Adults) Act 2012 and any other child protective measures and legislation;
 - Public procurement guidelines, including but not limited to [DPER's 05/2023 Circular regarding initiatives to assist SMEs in Public Procurement](#);
 - [*Statement of Principles for Grantees of Circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds.*](#)
 - Taxation legislation including income tax and withholding tax;
 - Tax clearance procedures including [Dept. of Finance Circular 44/2006](#);
 - Employment and pensions legislation;
 - Prompt payment of accounts;
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679, the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018, and any guidelines and codes of practice issued by the Data Protection Commission in Ireland from time to time;
 - [The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 \(amended 2022\)](#).