



Creative Ireland Open Call & Cruinniú na nÓg Grants 2025

As part of Longford's 2025 Creative Ireland programme, Longford County Council is inviting applications to fund innovative creative and cultural initiatives in the county for 2025 as part of an open call for Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg projects. **Applications are one per person/group and limited to a maximum grant of up to €5,000.**

Open Call: Events to take place between January and October 2025

Events and projects that focus on cultural activity involving the arts, creative industries, heritage, film, and animation. Projects 'as Gaeilge' are also welcome.

Longford County Council are seeking applications which will:

- Increase the choice of creative activity for all age groups.
- Should include an element from Arts, Heritage and Libraries as part of the project.
- Deliver creative engagement opportunities in person or as a blended offering.

Please note that all reports and invoices must be submitted to creativeireland@longfordcoco.ie and events completed or scheduled before **1 November 2025**.

Cruinniú na nÓg – 7 June 2025

This year we are looking for applications for Cruinniú na nÓg projects which focus on creating a day of free creative activity for children and young people up to 18 years of age on **Saturday 7 June 2024**. Longford County Council is seeking to further develop, diversify, and expand the offering and audience of Cruinniú na nÓg in 2025. We are looking for projects that will engage children of all abilities and be as inclusive as possible. Projects with a Sensory programming focus are very sought after for Cruinniú na nÓg in 2025.

Cruinniú na nÓg projects can be developmental with several workshops. The project must start or end on Saturday 7 June. Any project starting on Saturday 7 June must be completed by 27 June 2025.

Please note if applying for funding for Cruinniú na nÓg, the creative must be available to deliver their event on Saturday 7 June 2025 and all invoices must be submitted to creativeireland@longfordcoco.ie by **Friday 11 July 2025**.

Application Forms - Longford County Council are seeking applications which will:

- Increase the choice of creative activity. Across a wide genre, available to children and young people and harder to reach young people.
- Deliver creative engagement opportunities in-person or as a blended offering.

With all projects and programmes, the Creative Ireland team is looking for scale-ability, sustainability, and ambition. There must be an element of working on collaborative projects with other organisations and community groups to ensure grassroots participation with a focus on Arts, Heritage, and Libraries. Creative projects with a Climate Change focus are also very sought after for both open calls.

The closing date for applications is Friday 10 January 2025 at 12 noon.

Further information: <https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/creative-ireland-longford/>
or contact the Creative Ireland Team via email: creativeireland@longfordcoco.ie

Information on The Creative Ireland Open Call Grant

The County Longford Culture and Creativity Plan 2023-2027, outlines the objectives of Longford County Council in developing and promoting culture, creativity, and well-being in the county under the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. Under this initiative, a fund is being made available for local groups and creative practitioners who wish to organise a community/cultural event or undertake a cultural project to develop and promote culture/creativity in Longford in 2025 under the principles of Arts, Heritage, and Library.

What is the purpose of Longford County Council's Creative Longford grant?

The key objective of the grant is to provide support to organisers to develop new and innovative initiatives that will encourage creativity and cultural participation. The fund can be used to activate new cultural/creative projects and events in the county or add creative value to existing initiatives. The grant is administered by Longford County Council, and applications will be evaluated by the Longford County Council Culture Team.

What grant amounts are available?

- **Please note that grant funding for projects in 2025 is limited.** Grant amounts will typically be between **€500** and a **maximum of €5,000** with a **maximum of one application per person/group**.
- In exceptional circumstances, Longford County Council reserves the right to award a sum more than this, for transformative and/or wide-ranging projects that promote multiple elements of the Creative Ireland programme's five Pillars and the County Longford Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. The onus will be on the applicant to make a strong case for this.

Criteria

The following must be demonstrated:

- The extent to which the proposed initiative(s) maximize engagement and mobilization around the key *Creative Ireland* themes, and alignment to the five strategic objectives of *Creative Ireland Longford*.
- Projects are encouraged to be unique, innovative, creative, interesting, and likely to make an impact.
- The potential scope of the project to engage with the identified target audience(s) and/or foster well-being within the wider community.
- The cost of the proposed project.
- Any additional support and funding that may be required and have been secured from relevant stakeholders.
- The feasibility of project completion within the timeframe allocated.
- Demonstrate a capacity to deliver i.e., the community event organiser(s) must provide a clear plan for delivering the project, as well as promote the initiative effectively.
- Longford County Council, as a member of the Local Community Development Committee, is committed to the values of dignity, autonomy, democracy, inclusion, and social justice and their associated value objectives as set out in the Equality and Human Rights Statement of the Local Community Development Committee (available at www.longfordcoco.ie). Applications will be assessed on how they achieve these values.
- Longford County Council will not be in control of the locations where works/events take place, therefore it will be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2013 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, (where applicable), are implemented. Additional legislative requirements which may apply to the place of work will also need to be considered by the committee.
- An Event Management Plan may be required. If this is required, the organiser(s) should appoint an Event Controller to prepare the plan and manage the event.

Who is eligible to apply?

This fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, and cultural groups/ societies, and private companies. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with a community, cultural, or heritage group.

To be eligible for funding, the initiative must be based in County Longford, and this year's element be completed before 31st October 2025. However, all grants must be administrated by 1 November 2025.

What items and expenses are excluded from the fund?

- Spend on alcoholic beverages, fines, penalty payments, legal costs, audit fees, financial consultancy fees, wages, and salaries or other operational costs.

Information on The Creative Ireland Cruinniú na nÓg Grant

The County Longford Culture and Creativity Plan 2023-2027, outlines the objectives of Longford County Council in developing and promoting culture, creativity, and well-being in the county under the Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. Under this initiative, a fund is being made available for local groups and creative practitioners who wish to organise a community/cultural event or undertake a cultural project to develop and promote culture/creativity in Longford for Children and Young People (0-18years old) in 2025 under the principles of Arts, Heritage, and Library.

What is the purpose of Longford County Council's Cruinniú na nÓg grant?

The key objective of the grant is to provide support to organisers to develop new and innovative initiatives that will encourage creativity and cultural participation for young people. The fund can be used to activate new cultural/creative projects and events in the county or add creative value to existing initiatives. The grant is administered by Longford County Council, and applications will be evaluated by the Longford County Council Culture Team.

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- An Event Management Plan may be required. If this is required, the organiser(s) should appoint an Event Controller to prepare the plan and manage the event.
- Garda vetting and a Child Safeguarding statement will be required for all events that involve children or young people. If the supplier does not have a child safeguarding statement, they must sign the Longford County Council Child Safeguarding statement and be compliance with same.
- The supplier must also be aware of the Longford County Council Child Protection policy and adhere to same.

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How do I apply?

- Please apply to the Longford County Council Culture Team.
- Only fully completed submissions received via the approved application form will be considered.
- Good quality submissions, with support documentation such as estimates, reports, video/photos, etc. where available will be prioritised for funding.
- Digital submissions, either as a PDF or Word document are preferred, and a signed version of the application must be scanned in and then emailed to creativeireland@longfordcoco.ie.
- Please include "Creative Ireland Longford 2025" and the name of the project in the subject line.

Applications must be received by **Friday 10 January 2025**.

How will I know if my application has been successful?

Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer. This letter will form the contract between Longford County Council and the organiser and will detail all conditions and requirements. Where appropriate, Creative Ireland-Longford may suggest partnerships to help develop the initiative and ensure the greatest reach.

Acknowledgement

Once you have been notified that you have been successful in receiving funding, you must ensure that your event/project is promoted as part of this initiative, acknowledging the fund, and using the correct logos. Guidelines on this will be included with the letter of offer.