

Athletics Ireland Club Resilience Fund 2022

The Irish Government, through Sport Ireland, has made funding available to protect the sports sector from permanent financial and strategic harm arising from the public health crisis. Athletics Ireland is delighted to have secured €450,000 under the Club Support Scheme to assist clubs within the ROI who have been impacted by COVID-19.

We are now inviting clubs to apply for funding based on the criteria outlined below. Clubs must apply directly to Athletics Ireland to access the funding and must meet the criteria set out in the application. The scheme has been designed by Sport Ireland to financially support clubs in their sporting activities only and not one to replace lost income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, subletting or other non-sporting commercial activity.

Recognising the longer-term sustainability of clubs, and the difficulties associated with a return to normal levels of activity due to a shortage of trained volunteers, **a minimum of 10% of the requested amount** must be ringfenced for club members attending Athletics Ireland Coach Education courses, Coach CPD, Women in Sport, Inclusion, Child Safeguarding and Club Administration workshops. Recruiting new volunteers for these various roles can help the Club secure the longer term sustainability of the applicant Clubs.

Please read the criteria carefully as applicants who do not meet the conditions will not be considered.

Overview

The funding is specifically targeted at clubs who are experiencing one of the following:

- Immediate financial difficulty and are struggling to meet their financial obligations – (up to a maximum of 90% of the total application may be used to meet ongoing operational costs).
- Have experienced a significant exodus of club volunteers and/or coaching/teaching staff and have limited financial resources to provide members with education training and support (Clubs who do not have immediate cash flow issues but have experienced a loss of volunteers and need financial support to meet the educational needs of its members may apply for funding to support the delivery of their training plan. Such applications can be made solely to fund training of volunteers provided the relevant conditions have been met).

Clubs will be asked to provide relevant proof as part of the application and a failure to do so will render the application ineligible.

As part of the application process each club **must** complete the following contained within the Application Form excel file attachment.

- Tab 1. **Financial snapshot** – Clubs must complete the first tab highlighting the current financial situation of the club and identify the funding amounts required to address financial difficulties and training plan requirements
- Tab 2. **General Information** – As part of the funding application, need to detail what measures have been and will be taken to ensure the sustainability of the club. This section also allows you to provide further information in support of your application.
- Tab 3. **Club Member Training Plan** – Identify the current and planned number of qualified members within your club. All Coach Education, Women in Sport, Inclusion, Child Safeguarding, CPD, Official training courses have been identified. The cost of training associated with these numbers will then form the basis of your training plan/funding for the year 2022.

- **Tab 4. Club Development Plan** – The Development plan identifies how the funding will be utilised to support the training needs of the club and members. Athletics Ireland can work with Clubs to support and develop training plans for the use of the grant funding.

The funding will be drawn down by successful clubs in two parts.

This first payment will provide up to 50% of the funding amount and will be paid upon approval. Clubs will then have a period of 6 months from payment to work towards achieving their identified Club Development plan.

Payments will be made on receipt of a signed Club Assurance Statement.

The second payment will be made on the completion of an updated Club Development plan and agreement by Athletics Ireland that the club is successfully working towards implementing the Development plan.

Failure to work toward implementing the Development Plan will mean that clubs will forfeit the balance of the fund. Any unused funds will be used to run a second funding round.

Clubs can therefore apply for funding in two ways:

1. Support financial difficulties (max. 90%) and training plans
2. Support the delivery of an identified training plans

Assessment Criteria

When assessing applications, Athletics Ireland will review several areas including:

- Verifiable evidence of need (COVID 19 related losses to sporting activity income only)
- Size/scope of the Club (numbers of members/coaches, location, variety of athletics disciplines offered, facilities and equipment, diversity of membership)
- Level and scope of engagement of NGB programmes
- Levels of activities to counteract the loss of earnings
- Risk of insolvency / extent of Clubs reserves
- The extent to which the Club has lost volunteers and coaching staff
- Merits of Club Development Plan to ensure sustainability

Sport Ireland have also made us aware of the following:

- Funding is only available to Clubs, Affiliates, Provinces or Branches based in the Republic of Ireland.
- Funding cannot be used for Capital Works. This includes the completion or resumption of work that may have been disrupted due to COVID 19.
- Clubs, Affiliates and Branches with significant reserves should not be supported.

- A completed application form is not a guarantee of funding. All applications will be assessed by Athletics Ireland.
- The information supplied may be shared with Sport Ireland for verification purposes.
- Demand may very well exceed the available funds and clubs may therefore not be awarded the full amount requested.
- Only clubs who meet the affiliation which includes all safeguarding requirements (such as safeguarding, vetting, safeguarding statements etc.) and are currently affiliated to Athletics Ireland will be eligible to receive funding through the Resilience Fund.
- Clubs who are successful in their funding application will be required to send representatives to club development workshops. These workshops are intended to further support the development of clubs in recruiting and managing volunteers.
- No Canvassing permitted. Clubs may contact their RDO for guidance on completing the form, any club found to be campaigning for funds will be automatically excluded.
- Clubs may be asked to submit additional information to support their application.
- Athletics Ireland may change the funding application process or conditions at any stage should the requirements from Sport Ireland determine this.
- Only clubs based in the ROI may apply for funding under this resilience fund.

All applications must be [sent here](#) by midnight on Monday, April 11th, 2022.

We will be hosting the first [Webinar](#) of a series on Wednesday March 30th 2022 (7-8pm) where we will answer your questions and work through the funding application to help you understand how best to tailor your application.

DATA PROTECTION: The information collected will only be used for the purpose of processing your request for the Resilience Fund and will only be shared with Sport Ireland.

For specific questions please contact your Regional Development Officer.

Area	RDO	Phone	Email
NIA & Dublin	David Matthews	087 0516430	DavidMatthews@athleticsireland.ie
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IT Carlow, Carlow and Kilkenny	Shane Aston	089 2336739	shaneaston@athleticsireland.ie
Galway, Mayo, Clare	Conor Wilson	086 0329578	conorwilson@athleticsireland.ie
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AIT and Westmeath, Offaly, Longford & Roscommon	Bashir Hussain	086 787 6648	bashirhussain@athleticsireland.ie
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