Eligibility check

Please first review the [webpage](#) and [Applicant Guidance](#) to check eligibility. If you are still unsure, please contact us on pilotgrants@new-solutions.ie.

Q1. Is your organisation based in the Republic of Ireland? (Yes/No/Unsure)

Q2. Does your social innovation have its impact in the Republic of Ireland? (Yes/No/Unsure)

Q3. Does your organisation meet the legal form criteria for eligibility?

  (Yes/No/Unsure)

Note: Please refer to the section on 'Who can apply' on the website and in the Applicant Guidance.

Q4. If you have answered No to Q3, is your organisation in the process of registering/incorporating? (Yes/No)

Note: applicants must meet the legal form requirements by 31 May 2026.

Q5. Has your organisation previously received grant funding for their new pilot social innovation? (Yes/No)

Note: Grant funding must be specific to piloting a new social innovation. Applicants may still be considered eligible if any grant funding received within the past 12 months was limited to feasibility studies, research, or preparatory work related to the initiative.

If yes, please specify:

Q6: Is your social innovation in prototyping and pilot phase (Stage 3) of the social innovation development curve? (See Applicant Guidance, p. 8-9) (Yes/No)

Pilot Grants application form questions

Section 1 - About your organisation - We are collecting general information about your organisation in this section of the application.

Applicant name:

Applicant email address:

Applicant phone number:

Applicant job title:

Local Authority:

- Add Checkbox for Gaeltacht or Language Planning Area

Social Innovation Name (project name): (short text box) Required

Registered Organisation Name (if applicable):

Parent Organisation (if it applies): (short text box)

Year organisation started operating (if applicable):

What is the legal status of your organisation? (Choose all that apply)

- Not-For-Profit Organisations
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Community and Voluntary or Charitable Organisations
- Social Enterprises / Profit for Purpose Organisations - social enterprises must meet the definition as outlined in the Trading for Impact – national social enterprise policy 2024-2027 (trading-for-impact-national-social-enterprise-policy-2024-2027.pdf)
- Designated Activity Companies
- Co-operatives
- Entities that are either incorporated (CRO or Co-op) or a registered charity except for the below examples of HEPs and ETBs which have a different statutory setup. Types of incorporated entities: any type that can meet the definition of a social enterprise is eligible; this will be checked and verified.
- Higher education providers
- Education and Training Boards

- Company Number (NOT REQUIRED):

Website:

Bluesky:

Facebook:

LinkedIn:

Will your social innovation provide services through Irish? If yes, please describe your capacity to deliver bilingually.

Do you make this application under a partnership arrangement? (Yes/No) ((See Applicant Guidance, p. 11-12).

If yes, please provide details of the partner organisations, their roles, your management of governance arrangements, progress monitoring and risk management.

Please also **upload an organisational chart** outlining the partnership structure and partnership governing documents, like a Memorandum of Understanding.

Section 2: About the issue and your solution

Q1. List the social innovation themes your project is addressing? Applicants can choose more than one. (See Applicant Guidance, p. 10).

1. Increase employment for disadvantaged groups

2. Increase access to education for disadvantaged groups

3. Personal and social development of young people most at risk of poverty and social exclusion

4. Harnessing the potential of sport for social development and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups

For the next set of questions (Q2 – Q5), please provide an answer for each theme you have selected above.

Q2. If you have chosen fund theme 1, please describe how your social innovation aims to increase employment for disadvantaged groups.

Q3. If you have chosen fund theme 2, please describe how your social innovation aims to increase access to education for disadvantaged groups.

Q4. If you have chosen fund theme 3, please describe how your social innovation aims to address the personal and social development of young people most at risk of poverty and social exclusion

Q5. If you have chosen fund theme 4, please describe how your social innovation aims to harness the potential of sport for social development and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

Q5a For objective 4: Please demonstrate your link/partnership with your local Sports Development Officer created under the Sport Ireland ESF+ Action "Sport 4 Empowerment" (S4E) programme. *The upload of a letter of support on headed paper or an email record showing the official email signature is sufficient.*

Q6. Please describe the problem or social issue that this social innovation will address.

Use the HP Deprivation Index or another evidence based statistical tool to support your answer. If working in Gaeltacht communities, please also reference relevant language planning data. (250 words)

Q7. Describe how the need for your social innovation was identified including if you used co-design. (200 words)

Q8. How will your social innovation work? *Please provide a step-by-step description of how your project will work based on the results of your feasibility stage. (300 words)*

Q9. Which of the target groups of people below does/will your social innovation support? (Select all that apply)

- Those experiencing poverty or social exclusion, including homeless people, jobless households, and single-parent families
- Ethnic minorities, including Traveller and Roma
- Migrant people, including people seeking asylum and refugees
- People with disabilities
- Long-term unemployed
- Recovering drug users and those with a criminal history
- Educationally disadvantaged (ISCED0-26)
- People living in remote or rural areas/island residents

Q10. Please indicate the age range of the people your social innovation directly works with (Choose all that apply)

- Children and youth (0-18 years)
- Young adults (19-24)
- Adults (25-64)
- Older people (65+)

Section 3: Impact & Innovation

Q11. Please provide a link to a 3-minute video. (optional)

This video should tell us:

- who you are,
- why you are applying for the grant,
- what you are hoping to achieve over the next 2 years, and,
- how you will do this. (Short text box)
  HelpText: You can upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo. Please provide the link here. If it is password-protected, please also provide the password here. Note that you cannot attach it as a file to your application.

Q12. Have you started working on this social innovation, or have you tested it yet? Y/N

If yes, for how long have you been working on it?

Q13. If you **have started** working on this social innovation, please describe the impact it has had to date. You can tell us about the number of participants or give us any measured results. If you **have not yet started** working on this social innovation, how are you planning to capture impact?

Q14: How do you involve stakeholders and target groups in the co-design, delivery and evaluation of the social innovation? (150 words)

Q15. How would you know if your project has succeeded in its goals? Please provide an explanation of the social innovation's targets, desired social impact and outputs.

Q 15 a) Please also upload a completed **New Solutions Pilot Grants Results Framework Template** (See Applicant Guidance, p.16-17).

Q16. Who will be the project lead and supporting team? Describe their experience in the proposed social innovation and how they will help make it a success. Please also describe relevant leadership and board experience. (200 words)

Q17. How is your social innovation innovative? What makes it different from other projects currently on offer? (200 words)

Q18. Please describe how learning will be captured and how it will be used to adapt or refine the social innovation during delivery?

Section 4 – Financial Information

Q19. What is the total amount of funding you are applying over the 2 years?
Helptext: The total grant size is a minimum of €70,000 and a maximum of €100,000 across the 2 years.

Q20. Please describe how you would spend the grant. Please note, projects cannot spend the funding on scholarships/bursaries or capital items such as buildings, vans, renovations and equipment. (200 words) (See Applicant Guidance, p. 19-21).
Note: For a more detailed list of eligible expenditure, please refer to the applicant's guidelines.

Q21. **Project Budget**: please upload a budget detailing how you would spend the grant using the template provided. (See Applicant Guidance, p. 21).

Helptext: Download document. Fill out the details. Rename your file with your project's name. Upload the completed file as a spreadsheet here.

Q22. **Organisation Income & Expenditure**: please upload your organisation's planned annual income and expenditure using the I&E template provided (See Applicant Guidance, p.19).

Helptext: Download relevant document. Fill out the details. Rename your file with your organisation's name. Upload the completed file as a spreadsheet here.

Q23. Please describe how your project drives good value for money, including how funding will be used cost-effectively to create social value.

Note: Please refer to the value for money principles of Circular 13/2014 200/4/72

Q24. Please describe how your social innovation will effectively embed the Horizontal Principles of Gender Equality, Non-discrimination, Equality of Opportunity, and Do No Significant Harm across its design, implementation, and monitoring? (See Applicant Guidance, p.15 and 30).

Q25. Has your organisation received De Minimis Aid funding? (Yes/No) (See Applicant Guidance, p. 17-19).

Please download the De Minimis Declaration form, fill it in and upload it along with your other documents.

Q26. **Financial Statements**: please upload your most recent full audited (if applicable) financial statements. If your organisation is too new for annual financial statements, please go to Q27.

Q27. **Management Accounts**: this is only for applicant organisations who have been operating for **less than a year** and do not have Financial Statements. Please use template provided.

Helptext: Download relevant document. Fill out the details. Rename your file with your organisation's name. Upload the completed file as a spreadsheet here.

Q28. **VAT not Recoverable Template:** This is only needed if you are registered with Revenue for VAT but cannot recover it. Please use template provided.

Helptext: Download relevant document. Fill out the details. Rename your file with your organisation's name. Upload the completed file as a spreadsheet here.

Q29. **Governing Documents**: if your organisation **is not** incorporated with the Companies Registration Office (CRO), please upload your governing documents/constitution.

Section 5: Disclosures and other details

Are you or any member of your immediate family a staff member, client or board member of Pobal, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Rethink Ireland or the New Solutions Consortium Members (The Wheel, DCU, WDC, LDCN or Údarás na Gaeltachta)? If yes, please provide details.
Helptext: Immediate family members include siblings, parents, partners and children.

Is your organisation involved in any litigation, or are you aware of any potential litigation against you? Y/N

I consent for Rethink Ireland as the Lead Partner and Pobal as the Contracting Authority to store my information appropriately, and to contact me concerning information, including sending me updates on this fund and funding opportunities. Y/N

I acknowledge I have access to the privacy notice Y/N

How did you first hear about the New Solutions Pilot Grants?

- Social media
- Word of mouth
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Online search
- Online funding website such as Activelink
- Local Development Company
- Local Authority
- Public Participation Network
- Other

Additional Questions (if relevant/applicable)

Q1. Are your staff and volunteers Garda vetted? Y/N

Q2. If you work with people under 18 years of age, is your organisation fully compliant with Children First guidelines and child protection legislation? Y/N

I acknowledge I have access to the privacy notice.

Thank you for submitting your application.