

Community Heritage Fund Northern Ireland FAQs

Does the project have to be done in partnership between third sector and public sector?

No there is no partnership requirement for this programme.

Our organisations is not that familiar with using digital resources – is there any advice on this?

There is a section [on our website](#) that will help with this.

Do we have to be a charity to access this fund?

We are [accepting applications from a wide range of organisations](#) including registered charities, local authorities, other public sector organisations, registered company or community interest company (CIC), faith based or church organisations.

Can we buy IT equipment to do our project online?

IT equipment and digital outputs could be included as a minor part of any project in order to deliver it under this particular programme, but should not be the major cost.

It states that private owners of heritage can apply as long as the funded activity is free to access. Does that mean that we cannot charge to visit the facility? le charge for tours etc.

This fund is for projects to allow communities to explore their local heritage and identify what is important to them. We will consider how accessible your proposal is and this will include whether costs present a barrier to participation.

If we apply for the COVID Recovery Fund can we also apply for this fund?

Yes – the Community Heritage Fund is to support small scale projects in Northern Ireland which help connect communities to the heritage in their local area. The COVID Recovery Fund is a separate funding stream delivered by Cooperation Ireland and the Rural Community Network regarding PPE and moving services online.

Can we use this for Brown Heritage road signs?

In theory yes you could but it's worth considering the permissions and time it takes to get these passed by local councils. This project must be delivered between 15 February and 31 March 2021 and it may be unlikely you will get such permissions in place for brown signs.

Which is the most relevant scheme for tour guides?

The [Heritage Recovery Fund](#) is open to individuals within the heritage sector.

Is it possible to apply for a community clean-up project and new sign for scheduled monument with access in poor repair? Working in partnership with NI Environment agency and a local council.

Yes – there is potential to apply to this but please have all the necessary permissions in place to deliver and complete the project in the 6 week time period from 15 February to 31 March 2021.

We spent quite a lot of time doing a walking track during the summer. We wanted to embellish this with trees and shrubbery. Would that be eligible to promote increased footfall?

You would need to provide specific information on what a 'walking track' is and its relation to heritage but potentially it could be something that may be eligible if it satisfies the two outcomes and is related to local heritage. If you wish to plant trees you should demonstrate

that you have landowner's consent to do so. You should also consider the most appropriate species to plant in the area and take advice where necessary.

We need to procure a piece of consultancy to inform a new community heritage service does this work qualify?

It is unlikely that procuring a piece of consultancy for either a new or old community heritage service would be a priority for this fund as it doesn't meet either of the outcomes.

How about procuring a specialist report for conservation repairs?

No this does not meet the mandatory outcome. Repair and conservation works are not eligible under the Community Heritage Fund. Small-scale physical works such as the erection of plaques or interpretive panels could be included.

Do we have to own the heritage this project is connected with?

No this is open to any heritage. However you will need the necessary permissions to be in place for access purposes and if, for example, you wish to carry out some minor works such as erecting a plaque or carrying out some planting.

Can our whole project cost more than £10,000 and The National Lottery Heritage Fund just funds part of it?

The Community Heritage Fund cannot be used as partnership funding for a larger project. If your proposed project is over £10,000 and you can demonstrate that you have partnership funding to complete the project in the period 15 February to 31 March 2021 then you can apply for up to £10,000 from this fund.

Do we have to spend all our money in six weeks in February and March? Is any spend before that eligible?

The project must be completed within the period 15 February to 31 March 2021. Only costs incurred during this period are eligible for support.

Can we run a longer project and The National Lottery Heritage Fund only pays for the part during February and March?

Community Heritage Fund support cannot be used as partnership funding for a larger project. If your proposed project is over £10,000 and you can demonstrate that you have partnership funding to complete the project in the period 15 February to 31 March 2021 then you can apply for up to £10,000 from this fund.

When will we hear if we're successful?

Applicants will all be notified at the end of January 2021.

Can we apply on paper instead of online?

You must use the online application portal to apply.

Can I include part of a post that would be delivering this project, to cover their work time on this?

Third sector organisations and local authorities will be able to apply for [full cost recovery](#) including existing staff costs as part of their project costs.

Do you provide the evaluation information or do we have to create something ourselves?

We expect all applicants to evaluate their project. Please visit [the good practice guidance section](#) on our website where there is advice on evaluations.