

A group of people are shown from the chest up, holding up a variety of colorful, hand-crafted felt flowers. The flowers are made from wool and feature vibrant colors like red, blue, purple, yellow, and green. The people are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a warm, brownish-gold color.

Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community

Local Authority Funding 2024-2025



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Local Authority Funding 2024–2025

Timeframe

Supporting projects running from mid-2024 to end 2025.

Funding

€700,000 in Creative Ireland funding in 2024 for Local Authority partnerships to deliver 10 arts and health projects in the community and HSE community and hospital settings.

€350,000 of Shared Island funding in 2024 for Local Authority led cross-border arts and health partnerships to deliver 5 projects.

Further allocations in 2025, subject to budgetary allocations.

Eligibility

Projects to improve the health and wellbeing of all age groups and cohorts are eligible in areas such as:

- Social prescribing activities
- Children with chronic conditions
- End of life and bereavement
- Positive ageing

Please note this funding is not restricted to older people.



Sense of Self in my Community

The Case for Arts and Health in the Community

The Creative Ireland Programme¹ was set up to enable the creative potential of all people living in Ireland, to enhance their wellbeing and the collective wellbeing across all areas of our society. We focus on encouraging and supporting new ways and opportunities to participate in creative and cultural activities.

1. As part of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media (DTCAGSM), the Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government, culture-based, wellbeing initiative, grounded in the principle that every person has creative capacities, the development of which contributes to the well-being of all in our country. Following its first iteration between 2017 and 2022, Creative Ireland will operate for another five years—2023–7—across 5 pillars: Communities, Youth, Climate Action, Health & Wellbeing and Industries.

The Creative Ireland Programme and Health & Wellbeing

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme running until 2027. More information is available at www.creativeireland.gov.ie

A large part of our remit is to embed creativity across public policy, which is why we are working in partnership with the Department of Health (Ireland), the HSE and The Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon to demonstrate how creativity, be it through performing or visual arts, culture, and heritage-based activities, promotes positive health and wellbeing by helping people to connect socially, enhancing their self-esteem and resilience, enabling recovery and empowering them to manage their own health and wellbeing through their lives.

This is backed up by research carried out internationally, for example the World Health Organisation's (WHO) most recent report,² and domestically, where Creative Ireland worked with Trinity College Dublin to participate in the most recent [TILDA report](#), which found clear evidence of a positive association between creative engagement and health and wellbeing across all of the life course.



The Company of Trees

2. WHO Expert Meeting on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases—learning from the arts, November 2023

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland is a whole of Government-led programme aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland. As stated in the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan:

*'As Healthy Ireland enters its next phase, we will work with our partners and colleagues across Government to implement the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan to promote health and wellbeing and prevent illness amongst all populations in Ireland. Our focus will remain on working in partnership with colleagues across all sectors to empower people from all walks of life to achieve their health and wellbeing goals.'*³

Therefore, every public body has a duty to make their contribution to the achievement of the aims of Healthy Ireland in the interest of all our citizens.

Because Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government, culture-based, wellbeing initiative, grounded in the principle that every person has creative capacities, the development of which contributes to the wellbeing of all in our society, the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-25 specifically names Creative Ireland as an enabling partner.

3. Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025 p.5

Shared Island Initiative

The Shared Island initiative is a whole of Government priority to engage with all communities and political traditions to build consensus around a shared future on the island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The Shared Island initiative is backed by the €1 billion out to 2030 ring-fenced for delivery of all-island investment commitments and objectives in the Programme for Government and revised National Development Plan 2021-30; and informed by a programme of engagement with people across the island through the Shared Island Dialogue series and a comprehensive policy research programme, which provides a stronger evidence base and analysis of the island of Ireland across a range of economic, environmental and social areas.

The Shared Island dimension to the Creative Ireland Programme seeks to deploy creativity on a shared island basis to: Increase opportunities for cross community cultural and creative initiatives and to enhance networks of creativity in support of vibrant and inclusive people-to-people and community-to-community partnerships.

Further details on the Shared Island Initiative is available at www.gov.ie/sharedisland



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Objectives

In developing our approach to supporting Local Authorities to deliver arts and health projects to their communities we aim to:

- 1 Build on what we have learned from projects funded since 2021, which have covered:
 - Older people⁴
 - Traveller Communities
 - Children with chronic conditions⁵
 - End of life and bereavement⁶
 - Social Prescribing activities⁷
- 2 Leverage the capacity of Creative Ireland to align with Healthy Ireland to advance its objectives of:
 - Bringing a concerted focus on life-long wellbeing and prevention of illness
 - Seeking to reduce health inequalities
 - Addressing the settings in which health and wellbeing is impacted, and
 - Empowering people and communities to better look after their own health and wellbeing.
- 3 Facilitate collaboration between Creative Ireland, Healthy Ireland, HSE Local Health & Wellbeing and Sláintecare teams to implement arts and health projects to meet the health and wellbeing needs of communities in their areas.
- 4 Build this collaboration across Local Authorities by supporting Local Authority partnerships that align with the new HSE Regions.⁸
- 5 Develop the potential of a Shared Island approach to health and wellbeing by supporting cross-community creative networks.

4 [Creativity in Older Age programme](#)

5 [Helium Arts Creative Health Hub](#)

6 [Arts and Creativity at Irish Hospice Foundation](#)

7 [All Ireland Social Prescribing Network](#)

8 [HSE Health Regions](#)

Strand A Criteria

- 1 An application proposed and led by a partnership between Local Authorities aligned with the new HSE Health Regions, with at least 2 Local Authorities in each partnership, except in Dublin and Cork where the Local Authorities are larger than other areas. Proposals between 2 Local Authorities should not map across two or more HSE Regions.
- 2 The project to be developed and delivered in a collaboration between the Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland teams in each of the Local Authorities in the partnership, working with the relevant HSE Health & Wellbeing Officers, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Officer and other relevant officers, teams or networks e.g. Age Friendly Ireland (where appropriate).

Strand B Criteria (Shared Island)

- 1 An application must be proposed and led by a Local Authority in the south, working in partnership with organisations based in Northern Ireland.
- 2 The project to be developed and delivered by the Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland teams in each of the Local Authorities, working with the relevant HSE Health & Wellbeing Officers, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Officers and other relevant officers, teams or networks e.g. Age Friendly Ireland (where appropriate), in partnership with partner organisation(s) in Northern Ireland.
- 3 The project must have a clear North/South basis, and relate to implementation of the broad objectives of the Creative Ireland Programme and the Shared Island Initiative. East/West (Ireland/ Great Britain) dimensions and partners to such projects will also be welcomed.

Strand A and B Criteria

- Projects submitted under either strand must:**
- 1 Identify how the project contributes to at least one of the following:
 - Contribute to the core determinants of health
 - Play a critical role in health promotion and improvement
 - Help to support positive mental health
 - Help to promote positive ageing
 - Contribute to the prevention of chronic diseases
 - Support people to manage their health and wellbeing while living with a chronic disease
 - Assist in acute or end-of-life care
 - 2 Identify how the project delivers on objectives set out in the relevant Local Authorities' Culture and Creativity Strategies.
 - 3 Identify the objectives of the Healthy Ireland Strategic Framework that the project supports.
 - 4 Where relevant, outline how projects are building on work already undertaken through Health & Wellbeing projects previously supported by Creative Ireland.

Please note this funding is not restricted to older people. Projects dealing with all age groups and cohorts are eligible.

Projects under both strands may cover, but not restricted to:

- Supporting people to adopt healthy lifestyles and behaviours
- Supporting the creation of healthy environments
- Supporting children with chronic conditions
- Supporting positive ageing
- Social prescribing activities
- End of life and bereavement

Creative initiatives may differ from one area to the next based on many factors such as age profile, socio-economic conditions, rural/urban divide etc.

Strand A

For Strand A, a total of €700,000 in funding will be available for 2024 with the expectation of supporting 10 projects. Further funding to be made available in 2025, subject to budgetary availability.

Funding of up to €70,000 each available for 10 successful applications.

Strand B (Shared Island)

For Strand B, a total of approximately €350,000 will be available for 2024 with the expectation of funding 5 projects. Further funding to be made available in 2025, subject to budgetary availability.

Funding of up to €350,000 each available for 5 successful applications.

How have we developed this approach?

At a Networking Gathering on 8 November 2023, we brought together our Creative Ireland Coordinators and Creative Communities Engagement Officers with the Healthy Ireland Coordinators, Sláintecare Healthy Communities Development Coordinators and HSE Local Health & Wellbeing Officers to make connections and share learnings.

Key messages from the event were:

- Participants want to continue to be supported to deliver creative health and wellbeing projects that meet the needs of their communities.
- Support should be for more than one year.
- Participation in creative activity is an essential tool to address social isolation and health inequalities in the community.
- Continue to build on the good collaboration between Creative Ireland and Health Ireland in a number of local authorities through their Culture & Creativity Teams.

It is the collaborative approach that we now want to foster so that we can leverage the Creative and Healthy Ireland programmes to develop sustainable arts and health projects of scale across our Local Authorities.

In addition, based on the Creative Ireland experience of funding Shared Island projects, the potential for enhancing cross border creative networks to support health and wellbeing objectives has been identified.

Application Process

- 1** Creative Ireland Co-ordinators in co-operation with their Local Authority Culture and Creativity Teams are invited to submit a single cohesive proposal in partnership with at least one other Local Authority (other than Dublin and Cork local authorities). This applies to both Strand A and Strand B.
- 2** Proposals should span 2024 and into 2025 with the budget draw down for 2024 completed by mid-November 2024
- 3 Proposals must:**
 - i** Demonstrate creative quality, with significant and sustained reach amongst the community—the scheme will not be aimed at support toward once off events;
 - ii** Provide for final reporting to include an evaluation;
 - iii** Clearly indicate that Creative Ireland local authority colleagues are working in partnership with Healthy Ireland Programmes and are jointly involved in their submission.
 - iv** Clearly define the creative programme of engagement, delivery schedule and expected outcomes;
 - v** Clearly state the experience and expertise of programme partners and management;
 - vi** Include a full budget breakdown of all costs, including costs funded elsewhere, and amount of funding requested from this scheme.

Strand B — Shared Island only

- vii** Identify how the project has a clear North/South basis, and relates to implementation of the Health & Wellbeing objectives of the Creative Ireland Programme and how it relates to the Shared Island Initiative.

Important Dates

19th February — Fund Opens for Applications

Submit.com application form is available [here](#).

26th February at 11:30am — Online Briefing Session

An online webinar which will provide an overview of the fund and a Q&A session. [Register here](#).

28th March — Closing date

Proposals should be submitted through [submit.com](#) by this date. Our intention is to revert with grant decisions by end of May 2024.

November 2024 — Deadline to draw down funds for 2024.

The timeframe for the projects to run to November 2025.

If you have any queries about the funding scheme or the application process, please email creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie using the subject heading "Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community 2024".

Applications must be created on [Submit.com](#)

The closing date for receipt of applications is 28th March 2024 (close of business).

As an acknowledgement of the tremendous work undertaken through local authorities collaborating with live music performers and residential healthcare settings during the pandemic, the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Minister for Health have agreed to co-fund a separate call for successful proposals for live music in residential healthcare facilities in 2024. The call for these proposals issued on January 22nd.

Evaluation of applications

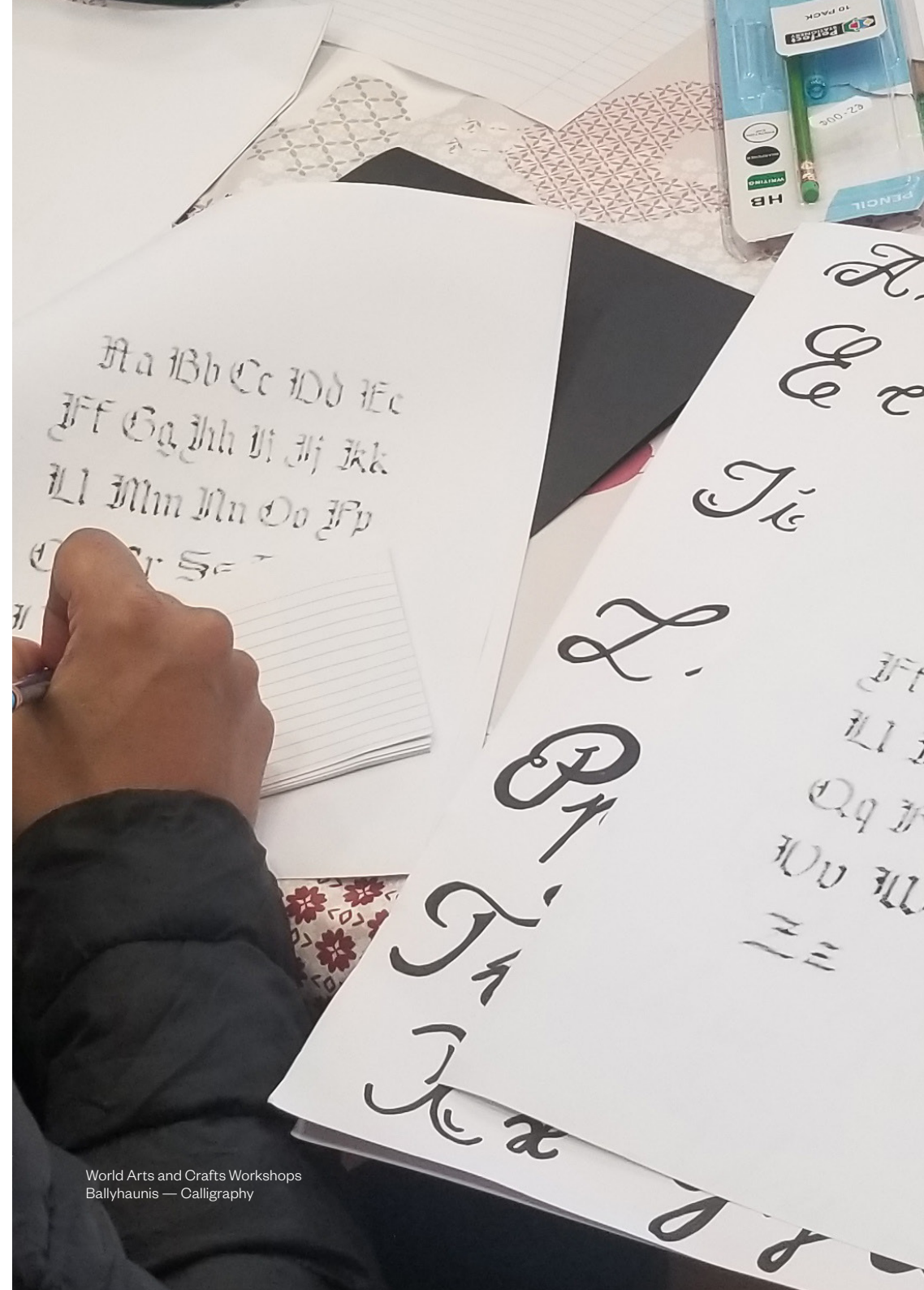
Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Marks Available
Quality of the proposal in terms of meeting programme objectives	45
Experience and expertise of the team	25
Anticipated value for money	30
Total	100

The evaluation process will also consider the requirement for a balanced regional distribution of initiatives across the scheme.

An online briefing session will be held on Monday 26th February @11:30am to answer any queries which may arise. [Click here to register.](#)

Any queries should be emailed to creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie. We would appreciate if you could put "Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community" in the subject title so we can direct your query



World Arts and Crafts Workshops
Ballyhaunis — Calligraphy

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