



NCCRI

National Consultative
Committee on Racism
and Interculturalism

NCCRI Community Development Support Unit

Short Guide to Funding Supports for Minority Ethnic Groups in the Community and Voluntary Sector

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The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI)

The NCCRI was established in 1998 as an independent expert committee focusing on racism and interculturalism. It is a partnership body, which brings together government and non-government organisations to:

- Develop an inclusive and strategic approach to combat racism, by focusing on its prevention and promoting an intercultural society;
- Contribute to policy and legislative developments and seek to encourage dialogue and progress in all areas relating to racism and interculturalism;
- Encourage integrated actions towards acknowledging, celebrating and accommodating cultural diversity;
- Establish and maintain links with organisations or individuals involved in addressing racism and promoting interculturalism at national, European and international level;
- Provide a national framework for responding to and consulting with key European and international bodies on issues related to racism and interculturalism

About this Booklet

The aim of this booklet is to give a brief overview of the types of funding available to community and voluntary (or non-governmental) groups that are organised by and/or work with minority ethnic groups, e.g.

- Refugee, asylum seeker and migrant support groups
- Solidarity, cultural and friendship groups
- Community groups, projects and resource centres that include or target minority ethnic groups in their work.

The booklet is designed to be an outline rather than detailed guide on funding sources, deadlines and contact details for sources of funding in the Republic of Ireland. It has been produced to help groups to plan their fundraising activity. It contains: a) an overview of how community and voluntary groups can access funding in Ireland; b) a matrix of funding supports; c) some tips on how to source funding for your group. Funders themselves are obviously the best source of information on the particular grants they offer, and it is highly recommended that you visit the website address provided in the contact details and contact the funding organisation directly for detailed information before making any grant application. The NCCRI's Community Development Support Unit is available to support and facilitate groups should they wish to pursue funding and contact details are supplied at the end of the booklet.

It is also important to note that the information provided here is very likely to change as new funding sources are announced and others end. The booklet can be found on the NCCRI's website (www.nccri.com) and the on-line version will be regularly updated. It is hoped that the booklet may be expanded at a later date to explore European and International sources of funding and also applicable sources in Northern Ireland.

The Organisation of Social Services in Ireland

While Ireland's small and very open economy is clearly dependent on foreign investment and the promotion of enterprise and market economics, it also operates a social welfare system. Funded primarily through taxation, the State administers a number of programmes to provide housing, healthcare and unemployment compensation to those whose income levels do not enable them to meet those needs. The taxation and welfare system provides basic benefits, assistance and pensions to groups such as the unemployed, elderly and the disabled and supplementary benefits such as medical cards when deemed necessary. These are usually administered by the Department of Social and Family Affairs via statutory agencies such as health boards.

However, while those state bodies provide some crucial services to people, they may not fully address many other needs that people have, e.g., access to training for employment or third level education, social networks, childcare and a myriad of different supports required by people to feel fully included in Irish society. In some instances, the *private sector* provides a commercial response to these needs – i.e. those with sufficient income can buy the services they need, e.g. health insurance, counselling, education and training, but for a great many people these needs are met by the work carried out by the *community and voluntary sector*.

Funding of Community and Voluntary Activity in Ireland

The Community and Voluntary Sector is made of thousands of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), small community based groups, voluntary organisations and religious and charitable organisations that address a huge and varied range of needs from the provision of health, education or other social services, to providing recreational activities to young people to advocating the rights of disadvantaged groups to participate in planning, decision making and governance.

Such groups are usually run by people who are involved in, affected by or concerned with a particular issue and who organise collectively to provide a response. In some instances the State directly supports community and voluntary organisations to provide services, for example, through the Community Development Support

Programme (explained in more detail later). In others, state funding is distributed to community and voluntary groups through statutory agencies, such as Area Development Management. Occasionally the State provides indirect support to the community and voluntary sector, as is the case where people are employed in community and voluntary groups through the Community Employment Scheme. However, many other community and voluntary organisations are not in receipt of any state funding, but instead depend on private fundraising or benevolent institutions like trusts and foundations to carry out important work. Minority ethnic group organisations (except Traveller organisations) tend to be primarily dependent on this latter source as to date, no specific framework has been developed to support such groups, and the criteria for accessing existing mainstream supports may currently exclude them.

Community Development and Minority Ethnic Groups

The NCCRI's Community Development Unit has a particular focus on providing support to the community and voluntary sector for *community development*. For this reason, the guide emphasises funding supports for such activity. Community Development activity does not refer solely to service provision, but rather to activity that enables geographical communities (like neighbourhoods), or communities of interest, (like women, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities) to organise themselves to play a more active and powerful role in the society in which they live. Community development activity can take place at many levels such as: training and personal development programmes, voter education initiatives, lobbying and campaigning to change social policy. Community development, however, is characterised by:

- a bottom-up approach – those who are affected by the problems identify the issues and participate in processes to find solutions;
- a strong focus on equality and a commitment to challenge discrimination;
- collective analysis, processes and outcomes – community development works for groups and communities rather than individuals;
- a structural analysis of inequality, poverty and injustice which explores root causes and seeks social change at a structural level also;
- the prioritisation of communities that experience social exclusion or disadvantage and solidarity with such communities;
- the empowerment of communities to participate in the analysis of and responses to the issues that affect their lives;

Clearly community development is very relevant to minority ethnic groups. While being a member of a minority ethnic group does not automatically mean that one is disadvantaged, the reality is that groups in Ireland such as refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and Travellers are at greater risk of social exclusion due to a combination of factors such as unemployment, educational disadvantage, welfare dependency, social isolation and racism.

State-funded Local and Community Development Programmes

There are three major national programmes that support family support services, community and local development activity in Ireland:

- the Community Development Support Programme (CDSP), which was established in 1990. The Programme has provided three-year core funding to community development projects (CDPs) in communities that experience social and economic disadvantage, as well as for core-funded groups (CFGs) that focus on particular communities of interest, e.g. women, Travellers. All these projects provide a range of supports and development opportunities to their target communities. Enhanced funding is provided to some projects to extend or add further initiatives and activities. There are approximately 180 such projects currently operating or in the start up phase around the country at the moment and a core principle of this programme is that those affected by issues of social exclusion direct the work of the project through participation on their management committees. Support for these projects is provided through regional and specialist support agencies which provide advice and guidance to projects in their region or through specialist support in the areas of violence against women, disability and Traveller issues, etc. N.B. At the time of print this programme was under review and had cut back on the level of core and enhanced funding it provides, and as a result, projects have been reduced to one-year contracts. While a number of Traveller groups operate successfully through CDSP funding, only one other minority ethnic group-led project has succeeded in accessing support through this programme.
- Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme. Until 2002, this programme formed part of the CDSP but is now separately administered by the Family Support Agency in the Department of Social and Family Affairs. This programme supports over one hundred locally based family support centres around the country. The FSA also provides family mediation services, information, support and counselling and grant aid for voluntary organisations delivering these services. The Family Support Agency has re-stated its commitment to promoting a community development approach in the delivery of its services.
- The Local Development Social Inclusion Programme. This programme is managed by ADM on behalf of the Government, having been established in 1989 in agreement with the European Commission. It is a

programme that makes funding available to a number of identified Area-based Partnerships and Community Groups to adopt partnership approaches and integrated methods in local areas to achieve balanced regional development. There are three major headings under which this is done: 1) services for the unemployed, 2) community development c) community based youth initiatives. Partnership companies and Community Groups have a role to bring together key actors and expertise in an area to reduce inequalities and thus are an important support and promoter of local community development activity. There are 39 area-based partnerships and 33 ADM-funded community groups that cover designated geographical areas.

▪ RAPID and CLÁR

Two new programmes have been introduced in the last 3 years which are focused on fast-tracking development funds from the national purse to the 45 most disadvantaged areas in the country. RAPID focuses on investment in a wide range of initiatives in disadvantaged urban areas and has involved representatives from the community alongside business people, statutory bodies and local authorities in planning those strategies. CLÁR, on the other hand, is a system for prioritising underdeveloped rural areas for development to raise the quality of life to the same standard enjoyed in less isolated parts of the country. While these initiatives were heralded as major opportunities for the community and voluntary sector, neither provides new funding nor grant opportunities for projects, but rather are systems for prioritising more disadvantaged areas for the attention of existing National Development Plan Funding and money from disbursed dormant bank accounts, and involving excluded groups in the planning process.

Also relevant to minority ethnic groups in Ireland is:

The EQUAL Community Initiative in Ireland

EQUAL is one of four Community Initiatives co-financed by the European Union. EQUAL seeks to identify and address fundamental forms of discrimination and inequality in the labour market.

Working through Development Partnerships that operate at a geographic or sectoral basis, EQUAL seeks to inform national and European Policy and practice, particularly the National Employment Action Plan and the European Employment Strategy (EES).

The EQUAL Community Initiative Programme in Ireland will run from 2001 – 2008 and the total budget available for this period is € 33.9m. There are two funding rounds to this programme - the first round which runs from 2001 -2005 and the second round from 2005 - 2008. Under the first round, an initiative aimed at asylum seekers, Sonas DP, was funded to improve the quality of life for groups of asylum seekers at identifiable phases of the asylum determination process and in so doing to contribute to the development of best humanitarian practice.

Funding frameworks specifically for minority ethnic groups

Each of the first three programmes has a stated role in including minority ethnic groups or challenging racism in their activities, while RAPID is committed to socially inclusive initiatives. Community Development Projects and Family Resource Centres can develop strategies to include such groups living in the area, while the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme names Travellers, refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants as target groups of the activities of Partnerships and Community Groups.

To date however, organisations led by minority ethnic groups or that have a specific anti-racism or intercultural focus, such as refugee/asylum support groups, cultural and solidarity groups, have not had direct access to the multi-annual funding that a programme such as the Community Development Support Programme provides, (with the exception of Traveller organisations and the core funding of the Bosnian Community Development Project). Instead such groups are relying on piecemeal funding which they may access from either one or a combination of the grant schemes listed in this booklet. Funding from these sources must usually be spent within one year and this poses a challenge to the ability of groups to become firmly established and build their capacity. This issue has been raised by a number of groups and the need for the core funding (through a suitable framework) of black and minority ethnic groups will continue to be promoted, particularly as a government review of the delivery of community and local development is being carried out by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs at the moment.

In the meantime, the following is a list of funding sources that may be appropriate to minority ethnic groups and the activities they undertake.

Funding Supports for Community and Voluntary Organisations in Ireland

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it' s for	Contact details
European Sources					
Reception and Integration Agency, Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform	European Refugee Fund (ERF)	No limits on applications. Annually decreasing fund from Council of European Union. It will be distributed depending on applications. 2001 - €1.3m 2002 - €965,000 2003 - €970,000 2004 will be the last round of the ERF.	Fund timeframe: 1 Jan 2000 – 31 Dec 2004 Annually Next deadline likely in Spring 2004	Targeted at Refugees, Asylum Seekers and those with temporary State protection. Wide range of actions under 3 measures for funding - initiatives to address: 1. Conditions for reception 2. Integration of refugees 3. Voluntary Repatriation	Reception and Integration Agency Block C Ardilaun Centre 112-114 St Stephen's Green Dublin 2 Tel: 01 418 3200 Fax: 01-418 3271 Email: info@justice.ie www.justice.ie [click link to 'asylum' and follow to ERF documentation]
Local Sources					
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups	Dublin City Partners Scheme	Up to €635	Not specified but the scheme is currently open.	Small awards to individuals and small community and voluntary organisations in Dublin area to assist in acquiring essential items of equipment, for event costs or tuition fees.	Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups North Brunswick Street Dublin 7 Tel. 01-889 7581 Fax: 01-873 5737 Email: carmichaelcentre@eircom.net Website: www.carmichaelcentre.ie
Local authorities	Local Authority Community and Recreation Scheme	The capacity to provide funding varies from one local authority to another. Some may only provide support-in-kind or use of facilities, while others may be able to provide grants. Only activities that have been provided for in the local authority estimates can be supported.	Check with your local authority.	Activities supported include: children's, youth, environment, recreation, community development, enterprise or training, purchase of equipment, construction of community facilities.	Community and Enterprise Unit in your local authority. Listed in phone book or at www.environment/localauthorities.ie

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it's for	Contact details
Vocational Educational Committees (VEC)	Vocational Educational Committees (statutory bodies set up in every county to promote access to education.	Varies		There may be support available for local voluntary initiatives e.g. adult education, youth, sports, recreation activities) but it varies from region to region and depends on available funding.	Irish Vocational Education Association McCann House, 99 Marlborough Road Donnybrook Dublin 4 Tel. 01-4966033 Fax: 01-496 6460 Email: ivea@indigo.ie Website: www.ivea.ie Or contact your local VEC
National Sources					
ADM (Assigned Fund Administrator)	Dormant Accounts Fund	Not specified. Detailed guidelines are available from ADM	Open-ended	Fund categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and social disadvantage Educational disadvantage Persons with a disability NB This fund prioritises RAPID and CLÁR areas – check guidelines carefully.	Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) Holbrook House Holles St Dublin 2 Tel: 01-240 0700 Fax: 01-661 0411 Email: enquiries@adm.ie Website: www.adm.ie
Comhairle	Information Training, Social Policy and other support grants	Information grants range from €6k-€20K but most others are small grants.	Information grants scheme closed in April 2003. Deadlines for other schemes not specified.	Provides grants to community and voluntary organisations for: information, publications, social policy and training.	Floor 7 Hume House Ballsbridge Dublin 4 Tel. 01-605 9000 Fax: 01 605 9099 Email: info@comhairle.ie Website: www.comhairle.ie Please see website for details of individual departments and/or regional offices to contact.

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it's for	Contact details
Co-operation Ireland	Peace II and Interreg	Varying funds	Deadlines vary for different programmes. Check with Co-operation Ireland.	Co-operation Ireland administers funding for the Peace II and Interreg programmes in partnership with ADM and CPA. Some measures can provide funding to community-led initiatives, targeted at socially excluded groups and that involve partnership between organisations north and south of the border.	<p>Co-operation Ireland Dublin 20 Herbert Place Dublin 2 Ireland Phone: 01-661 0588 Fax: 01- 661 8456 Email: info@cooperationireland.org</p> <p>Co-operation Ireland Belfast 2nd Floor Glendenning House 6 Murray Street Belfast BT1 6DN Phone: 048 90 321462 Fax: 048 9089 1000 Email: info@cooperationireland.org Website: cooperation@ireland.org</p>
Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	Supports for Voluntary and Community Development Groups	90% of max. of €4,000 may be funded	Last deadline was August 2003. 2004 details not yet available.	Two schemes of once-off grants: 1. Equipment and Refurbishment/Pr emises Grants 2. Education, Training and Research Grants	Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs Dún Aimirgin 43-49 Mespil Road, Dublin 4 Tel: 01 6473000 Fax: 01 6670826 LoCall Number: 1890 474 847. Website: www.pobail.ie
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	Know Racism Programme Grants Scheme OK	<p>a) Small-scale actions - €2,000</p> <p>b) Local anti-racism strategic planning for networks –up to €6,000</p> <p>c) structures/processes for the delivery of public services to address/promote anti-racism & interculturalism</p> <p>Total of €319,596 has been approved for 86 groups in 2003.</p>	2001-2004 Twice yearly. Final application date of this scheme was : 28 May 2003. It is not yet known what, if anything, will replace this funding source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stimulating public awareness and understanding of racism ▪ Affirming cultural diversity as a value in our society ▪ Helping create the conditions to challenge racism ▪ Promoting an inclusive approach to minority groups 	The Secretary Know Racism Programme Grants Scheme 2 nd Floor Bishops Square Redmonds Hill Dublin 2 Tel: 01-479 0201-4790272 / 4790273 Fax: 01 4790201 / 4790202 Email: info@antiracism.gov.ie Website: www.knowracism.ie

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it's for	Contact details
Development Co-operation Ireland, Department of Foreign Affairs. Formerly known as the National Committee for Development Education (NCDE)	Development Education Grants Scheme	According to 2002 guidelines there was no minimum or maximum requirement for annual project or research grants.	Application deadlines are in January and June of each year. New guidelines will be available shortly on the DCI website The Media Challenge Fund application deadline is 28 November 03	According to 2002 guidelines: Work that has a development education approach (including anti-racism and interculturalism). There were a number of types of grants accessible to community groups, women's groups, networks and youth organisations. The Media Challenge Fund can fund the production of radio programmes that explore development issues with an emphasis on the link between local and global by local or national radio programmers.	Development Co-operation Ireland Development Education Unit Bishop's Square Redmonds Hill Dublin 2 Tel: 01-478 0822 Fax: 01-478 0952 Website: www.dci.gov.ie
Reception and Integration Agency, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	Scheme of Grants to Voluntary Organisations befriending, supporting and including Asylum Seekers in Direct Provision resettle locally	Maximum of 70% of the cost of proposed project up to a ceiling of €5,000.	Ongoing	Projects which assist asylum seekers to settle in the area and which seek to promote intercultural activities between the local community and asylum seekers.	Reception and Integration Agency Block C Ardilaun Centre 112-114 St. Stephen's Green Dublin 2 Tel: 01-418 3200 Fax: 01-418 3271. Freefone: 1890 77 77 27
The Combat Poverty Agency	Working Against Poverty Grant Scheme	In 2003, up to €13,000 with 10 special large-scale grants of between €20,000 and €24,000.	The final round of this scheme was administered by CPA in 2003 at the request of the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. It is expected that this Department will take over responsibility for this funding allocation, subject to the outcomes of the current review process.	Community and voluntary groups working to tackle poverty or the effects of poverty. It aimed to help groups influence public policy at regional or national levels and funded 4 types of activity: 1. Training and Skills Development for influencing policy 2. Conferences, Seminars and Publications 3. Research or Evaluation 4. Policy Analysis and Promotion.	Combat Poverty Agency Bridgewater House Coynningham Road Islandbridge Dublin 7 Tel: 01-602 6615 Fax: 01- 670 6760 Email: projects@cpa.ie Website: www.cpa.ie
Trusts and Foundations					

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it' s for	Contact details
Christian Brothers Edmund Rice Trust	Christian Brothers Edmund Rice Trust		1 st February-31 st March annually	Projects for the alleviation of poverty, training of teachers, parents, youth leaders in provision of leadership or development, research into educational disadvantage, school effectiveness, youth leadership and religious development of young people, educational facilities Research into educational development.	Christian Brothers Edmund Rice Trust Office St Patricks Griffith Avenue Marino Dublin 9 For application Tel. 01-8330566 Fax: 833 0569 Email: blessededmund@eircom.net
British Council		Not specified	Not specified	Provides information on British education and runs programmes with Irish partners in the arts, governance, health and science	Director Newmount House 22-24 Lower Mount St Dublin 2 Tel: 01-676 6943 Website: www.britishcouncil.org/ireland
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation		Limit of GBP £10-15K per grant	Fully prepared proposals are considered at 3 yearly Trustee meetings in the first week of March, July and November. Proposals must be submitted 10 weeks before these dates.	Grants for projects proposed by applicants and Foundation initiated projects. Activities in the arts, education, social welfare and Anglo-Portuguese cultural relations.	Grants Administrator 98 Portland Place London W1B 1ET England Tel +44 207 636 5313 Fax:+44 207 908 7528 Website: www.gulbenkian.org.uk
Carnegie UK Trust		£1K to £30K	No later than 15 th Jan, 15 th April, 15 th September to be considered at trustee meetings held 2 months later.	Support village and rural community development, new trends in creativity and imagination across a broad spectrum of national life, help improve the prospects of young people and support active participation in society, widen use of village halls as centres of service for the community.	Carnegie UK Trust Comely Park House Dunfermline Fife KY12 7EJ Scotland Tel: +44 1383 721445 Fax: +44 1383 620682 Website: www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk
Community Foundation for Ireland	Community Foundation for Ireland Community Funding Initiatives	Between €600 and €1,200	Quarterly Board meetings approve applications	Supports initiatives that address isolation and diversity particularly in the areas of lone parents, gay and lesbian communities and new (ethnic) communities in Ireland.	32 O'Connell Street Dublin 1 Tel: 01-874 7354 Fax: 01 8747637 Email: admin@foundation.ie Website: www.cfi.foundation.ie

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it's for	Contact details
International Fund for Ireland IFI	Community Bridges Scheme	Not specified	<p>Quarterly Board meetings approved funding applications.</p> <p>Next Board meeting: 12th December 04</p>	<p>Prioritising projects located in Northern Ireland and the six border counties, this programme aims to support organisations, which promote greater dialogue and understanding and tackle issues of division between people from different cultures and religious traditions within Ireland.</p>	<p>P.O. Box 2000 Dublin 2 Tel: 01-478 0655 Fax: 01-475 1351 Website: www.internationalfundforireland.com</p>
The Atlantic Philanthropies		<p>While limits are not specified, to date in 2003, a total of €6.5 million has been granted to 6 organisations in Republic of Ireland (including €4m to the Community Foundation for Ireland)</p>	<p>Not specified.</p> <p>N.B. Currently Atlantic Philanthropies do not accept uninvited funding proposals. They are reviewing their funding policy and the outcomes will be posted on their website.</p>	<p>New funding programmes aimed at Ireland now focus on supporting programmes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disadvantaged youth and children; ▪ Ageing; ▪ Access of disadvantaged people to rights and services. 	<p>Tara House 32 Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2, Ireland Tel: 01-676-2121 Fax: 01-676-3684 Email: Ireland@atlanticphilanthropies.org Website: www.atlanticphilanthropies.org</p>
The Ireland Funds		<p>The maximum award available is €30,000/Stg£20,000. Projects seeking larger awards should contact the Grants Office of The Ireland Funds.</p>	<p>The Funds accept applications for a three-month period from November 1, 2003 — January 30, 2004.</p>	<p>4 categories: arts and culture, community development, education, peace and reconciliation. Community development initiatives to prioritise increasing the capacity of the social economy, support of rural development initiatives, promotion of social inclusion, promotion of tolerance and diversity.</p>	<p>Grants Office, 5 Foster Place Dublin 2 Tel. 01-6627878 Email: grants@irelandfunds.ie Website: www.irfunds.org</p>

Funding Body	Name of Fund	Amount of Grant	Timeframe/ Deadline	What it' s for	Contact details
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	Programme in the Republic of Ireland	Range from a few hundred euros to more than €100,000 over 3 years.	The following deadlines in 2004 precede Trustee meetings by 10 weeks at which decisions are made: 5 January 2004 29 March 2004 20 September 2004	The Trust's programme supports a wide range of initiatives, including those to: safeguard the rights, and address the needs of minorities including Travellers and the emerging communities of refugees and asylum seekers; and promote concepts of pluralism and racial justice with policy shapers, decision makers and opinion formers. Mostly for national initiatives but sometimes for local organisations.	The Garden House Water End York YO30 6WQ England Tel. +44 1904 627810 Fax: +44 1904 651990 Email: info@jrct.org.uk Website: www.jrct.org.uk

Non-fiscal community sector supports

Much of the focus from community and voluntary organisations is directed at identifying and accessing funding sources and clearly this is crucial to the sustaining the activities of such groups. However, it is important to be aware of the many sources of non-fiscal support that exist. Organisations such as the following are important sources of information, advice and referral. Familiarising yourself with these organisations can be very helpful; for example, to make use of work that has already been done, for finding shortcuts that can help your group, or for networking and collaborating with similar groups.

The following lists some examples of such organisations, each containing a short description of the organisation and a link to its website.

The Irish Refugee Council: www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

The IRC is a member organisation that seeks to:

- ensure that all aspects of Ireland's asylum and refugee policy and practice (legal, social, economic and cultural) fully respect international law and the human rights of asylum-seekers and refugees;
- promote public awareness and understanding of asylum and refugee issues;
- serve the networking, information exchange and advocacy needs of the asylum- seeking / refugee community, the (IRC) membership and other organisations with similar aims.

Refugee Information Service: www.ris.ie

The Refugee Information Service exists to counter social exclusion through the provision of specialist information, referral and advocacy service to asylum-seekers and refugees. The RIS is supported by Comhairle.

Migrants Rights Centre Ireland: www.columban.com/mrci.html

The MRCI is a national, rights based voluntary organisation that undertakes a wide range of activities to promote cultural diversity and empower migrants to enjoy their rights and participate full in all aspects of social, economic, cultural and political life in Ireland. Among its activities, it provides support, advice and information to migrant workers, their families and community and voluntary organisations, advocates on the rights of migrants at all levels of policy and decision making. It documents and researches the experience of migrants in Ireland and supports the participation of migrants in community-based responses and in policy and decision making.

Integrating Ireland: www.integratingireland.ie

Integrating Ireland is an independent network of community and voluntary groups, working in solidarity, and committed to promoting, and realising the human rights, equality, and full integration of refugees, people seeking asylum, and immigrants in Ireland.

Established in 2000, the membership-based network currently comprises of over 140 organisations from all over Ireland, North and South.

Immigrant Council of Ireland: www.immigrantcouncil.ie

The Immigrant Council of Ireland is an independent organisation working with and for immigrants in promoting their rights through information, advocacy, and awareness.

The Community Workers Co-operative: www.cwc.ie

The Community Workers Co-operative (CWC) is a national network of individuals and organisations involved in community work and working for social change in Ireland. It seeks to be an independent voice and to lobby on issues that directly affect the lives of those who are most disadvantaged

Comhairle: www.comhairle.ie

Comhairle is the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services. It supports the provision of information to the public through the nationwide network of Citizens Information Centres, the Citizens Information Call Centre and through the OASIS and Citizens Information Databases. You can register for information on the Citizen's Information Database by logging onto www.cidb.ie. As a statutory agency, Comhairle comes within the remit of the Department of Social & Family Affairs in Ireland.

Active Link: www.activelink.ie

Activelink works with non-profit organisations to develop on-line communications in the public interest, to promote action and participation and to foster the sharing of ideas, experience and information for a better world.

The Wheel: www.wheel.ie

The Wheel is a non-profit, independent resource centre and advocate for Community and Voluntary organisations. It offers support, advocacy and leadership for Community and Voluntary activity across Ireland.

Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups: www.carmichaelcentre.ie

The centre provides a wide range of resources to community and voluntary groups, particularly in terms of training.

Funding for Sports, the Arts, Youth and Childcare

As has been stated, this booklet focuses in particular on funding and support for community development of minority ethnic groups. However, funding for other activities, such as in sport, art or recreation are also available through a wide range of funding schemes and supports, examples of which are listed below with their websites. Further details on these can be found on their websites or from the Café Publications/Clann Credo Irish Fundraising Handbook (2003-2004), available at a price of €20 from 10/11 Earls Street South, Dublin 8. Tel: 01-473 6600, Fax: 01-473 6599. Email: café@connect.ie.

Sports

- Cultural Relations Committee Sports Capital Programme. **Website:** www.arts-sports-tourism.gov.ie/grants
- Local Sports Partnership Initiative – to promote participation in sport at a local level through co-ordinated supports and resources. Hoped to facilitate partnership between local authorities, VECs and Health Boards and with sports clubs too. Contact one of the 12 LSPs, details available on **Website:** www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/lsp.asp.

Arts

- Arts Council – small arts festival awards. **Website:** www.artscouncil.ie
- Local authorities arts funding. Listed in phone book or at **Website:** www.environ/localgovernment/localauthorities.ie
- Esme Mitchell Foundation – especially Northern Ireland, principally focusing on culture and artistic objectives. Tel. 048 902 45277
- St Patrick's Day Festival Jump Start Grant of €400-€700 for costume costs. **Website:** www.stpatricksdays.ie/docs/jumpstart2004.doc.

Youth

- City of Dublin Youth Services Board offer a range of grants for voluntary youth organisations. Information about these is available or accessible by contacting your local VEC.
- Irish Youth Foundation – provides grants for children and young people at risk. Website: www.iyf.ie.

Childcare

Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP). See website: www.adm.ie

Getting organised to seek funding

Applying for funding for a project or piece of work can be a surprisingly demanding piece of work requiring a lot of attention to detail and more research than might be apparent at first glance. Either the funding source will be oversubscribed or the funders will have very specific requirements that must be met to qualify for funding. Many groups become disillusioned when they commit time (usually voluntary) and effort to a demanding funding proposal and then are not successful in their application. A few practical questions should be asked prior to making a funding application:

- Is the group agreed on what exactly it wishes to do and is there a clear need for or rationale to carry out this work?
- Are you ready to take on this proposed piece of work within the timeframe that the funder outlines?
- Does the group have the capacity to meet all the reporting requirements that the funder specifies?
- Are you the right group to be carrying out this piece of work or is that someone else's role?

While these may seem very obvious, it is often the case that all group members do not share a common idea of what the project should comprise, or that a very good proposal may be submitted for a piece of work that cannot realistically be accomplished by the group at that time. This will only lead to problems and/or disillusionment later.

Most funders require that groups are legally constituted and structured. At the very least, applicants will have to demonstrate how that particular funding proposal relates to their overall aim and objectives.

Tools and Supports

There are a number of resources available to help groups to organise in these ways, such as:

- *Managing Better – A Series on Organisational and Management Issues for the Community and Voluntary Sector*, by Jane Clarke. A six-part series priced at €20.
- *A Guide to Legal Structures for Voluntary and Community Organisations*, by Mel Cousins. Both of these publications are published by and available from the Combat Poverty Agency (Tel: 01-670 6746).
- *The Café/Clann Credo Irish Fundraising Handbook 2003-2004*, available from Create (tel: 01-473 6600)

A number of organisations also run training courses to assist groups to develop skills in the areas of management, organisational development and fundraising. Information about these courses can usually be found on the e-bulletin distributed by the organisation *Active Link* (see page 25) and are often run by national organisations such as the Carmichael Centre for Community and Voluntary Groups and Integrating Ireland. This kind of support may also be available locally too and it is wise to check with your local area partnership (listed on the website; <http://www.pobail.ie/en/CommunityProgrammes/LocalPartnershipandCommunityGroups/>). Regional support agencies sometimes support projects that are not affiliated to the Community Development Support Programme. Contact the NCCRI for details of the nearest regional support agency to you.

Finally, the NCCRI's Community Development Support Unit can provide direct support and facilitation to groups involved in interculturalism, anti-racism and work with minority ethnic groups. Information on the NCCRI website is regularly updated, and a monthly news bulletin is emailed to anyone who wishes to subscribe to it. The e-bulletin contains funding updates and reminders of upcoming deadlines too. You can subscribe to the bulletin by emailing jacquelinehealy@eircom.net. If you have queries or issues that you think the Community Development Support Unit can assist you with, you can contact us at:

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