

**ILDN Social Enterprise IMPACT Awards**

Frequently Asked Questions

All questions relating to the ILDN Social Enterprise Impact Awards should be submitted by email to *SEImpactAwards@ildn.ie*. The deadline for submission of questions is 11.59pm on 3rd December 2023.

This Document was last updated on: 13th November, 2023

1. *Are social enterprises that pursue a purely environmental mission eligible to apply?*

Social enterprises that pursue environmental objectives are welcome to apply; however, to ensure consistency with the aims and scope of the Dorman Accounts Fund – which focuses on addressing economic, social and educational disadvantage, or supporting those with a disability – such organisations are encouraged to clearly specify the benefits to people (and not just the environment) arising from the work that they do.

1. *Are there restrictions on how the prizemoney can be spent?*

Prizemoney can be used to cover any expenses incurred by the social enterprises. This can include both capital expenses (e.g., building and renovation works, equipment, etc.) and current expenses (e.g., utility bills, insurance). However, awardees are required to indicate to ILDN on or before 30th April 2024 how prizemoney will be used.

1. *If unsuccessful, will it be possible to get feedback on where they lost marks to help in future funding applications?*

While we will endeavour to provide some qualitative feedback on all applications, our ability to do so will depend on the volume of applications that we receive.

1. *Would a Social Enterprise which is a CSP be eligible to apply for these awards?*

Organisations in receipt of Community Services Programme funding are eligible to apply assuming they meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Call for Submissions.

1. *Will early years services be eligible to apply?*

Providers of early years services may apply, assuming they meet all eligibility conditions set out in the call for submissions (including the requirement to be bound by an asset lock, meaning that the organisation’s assets will transfer to another organisation with a similar mission in the case of dissolution).

1. *Can a social enterprise apply if it does not engage in impact evaluation?*

In principle, yes – all social enterprises that meet the eligibility criteria in the Call for Submissions are welcome to apply. However, since applicants will be scored primarily on the quality of their impact evaluation/monitoring/assessment approach, as well as the scope and scale of their actual impact, social enterprises that do not actively evaluate their impact will be as a significant competitive disadvantage.

1. *Do entrants have to have a particular legal status/legal form?*

No, legal status/legal form is not an eligibility condition. However, applicants must ensure that they meet all of the eligibility criteria set out in the application form. Supporting documentation, e.g., articles of association, may be sought if an applicant’s eligibility needs to be verified.

1. *Can you give some examples of KPI's - Key Performance Indicators - relevant to social enterprise type activities for the purpose of this award?*

We have consciously opted against providing examples of KPIs, primarily because there are very few KPIs that are relevant to all social enterprises, and we are cognisant of the risk that some potential applicants may refrain from applying if the examples given are not relevant to them. Where applicants track KPIs (either widely used KPIs or bespoke KPIs that are particular to their organisation/mission), we encourage them to refer to them in their application.

1. *If you are a new social enterprise (-36mths) and also small, for example, are you better to apply in the 'new' category or the 'small' category?*

Where applicants are eligible for more than one category (i.e., ‘new’ social enterprise *and* either ‘small’ *or* ‘medium/large’ social enterprise), their application will automatically be considered in both categories – they do not need to choose between categories. No applicant will receive a prize in more than one category.

1. *Is there a word count on the application?*

Each section has its own word count – these are specified on the application form.

1. *Is there a maximum turnover limit?*

No, all eligible social enterprise are welcome to apply, regardless of their turnover.

1. *Can you clarify what is meant by ‘income model’ (as it appears in the first part of the application form)?*

By ‘income model’, we are referring to how your organisation generates income. Please describe in this section any trading activities that your organisation undertakes to generate income.

1. *Is there a limit on the amount of appendices we can attach?*

No. However, please ensure that appendices are (i) relevant and (ii) explicitly signposted/referred to in-text.

1. *Can you clarify why social enterprises under the umbrella of an LDC are excluded?*

Social enterprises under the umbrella of an LDC have been excluded because this competition is being adjudicated upon by the Irish Local Development Network, which is a representative body for all LDCs. Inclusion of LDC-operated social enterprises would have created a conflict of interest.

1. *We receive community service funding from Pobal – does this mean we are disqualified from applying?*

No. Being in receipt of grant funding from Pobal or other government departments (including Community Services Programme funding) does not in itself have a bearing on a social enterprise’s eligibility. Provided all of the eligibility criteria in the call for submissions are met, your organisation is welcome to submit an application.

1. *Can the prize money be used to cover staff costs?*

Yes. As staff costs may not be accompanied by a quote, invoice, or receipt, we may seek verification in the form of a letter signed by the member(s) of staff in question, to confirm that funds have been used in this way.

1. *Do the monetary prizes count towards a social enterprise’s* de minimis *threshold of €200,000?*

Yes, because monetary prizes (i) take the form of State resources (prizes are being funded from the Dormant Accounts Fund), (ii) will result in selective advantage (awardees will gain a potential advantage over others), (iii) potentially distort competition between awardees and others, and (iv) potentially affect trade between EU member states. For more information on *de minimis,* please refer to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment’s guide to State Aid, [*What is State Aid?*](https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/what-we-do/eu-internal-market/eu-state-aid-rules/what-is-state-aid-/).

1. *Why does the application form include a question relating to whether our social enterprise has received Government funding totalling €190,000 or more since 1st January 2020?*

This is aimed at determining whether any monetary prize that your organisation might receive under this initiative could bring about a breach of the *de minimis* threshold of €200,000. If your social enterprise has received more than €190,000 in Government funding during this period, this does not necessarily disqualify you from receiving a monetary prize.

1. *What does and does not constitute “Government funding”?*

Per the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment’s guide to State Aid, this should be taken to include “grants, interest and tax relief, guarantees, government holdings of all or part of a company, or the provision of goods and services on preferential terms” that are provided by Government departments or by bodies that use resources that belong to the State (e.g., Pobal).



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