

# LAWPRO Small Grants & Events Scheme Guidelines 2026

**This scheme is subject to the availability of funding  
to the Local Authority Waters Programme in 2026.**

**The Fund is administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on behalf of  
the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.**



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

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## Introduction

This grants scheme is for community groups to apply for small scale initiatives, projects and events outside of LAWPRO's targeted open calls. It covers events such as World Wetlands Day, Biodiversity Week, Science Week, etc. It may also be used for education and awareness raising initiatives such as surveys and plans, citizen science, hosting a meeting, litter picks, publications, biodiversity signage, or other such small-scale initiatives.

**Please do not use this application form to apply for events hosted during Heritage Week (August 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026).** A separate application process for Heritage Week grants will be advertised at a later date.

## Objectives of the Fund

LAWPRO's Small Grants and Events Scheme is a grant funding scheme to enable community water quality initiatives to take place. The Fund is administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Fund is open to eligible applicants in the Republic of Ireland only.

The Fund will help meet the objectives of the [Water Action Plan 2024- 2027](#). The Water Action Plan (WAP) sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland under the EU Water Framework Directive up to 2027. One of the objectives of the WAP over the next four years is to achieve improvements in water quality delivering multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change and local communities. This Fund supports communities to deliver positive actions for water quality.

## What can be funded?

Applications must have a water quality or water awareness focus. Eligible costs include:

- Smaller scale/lower cost projects & events
- Feasibility studies/Planning Development/river restoration type plan development
- Screening for appropriate assessments/other environmental reports & plans
- Match funding with other related fund streams
- Water conservation/Rainwater harvesting
- Educational and awareness events
- Water themed workshops/events
- Citizen Science workshops/events/training
- Biodiversity/Climate workshop/events with Water Quality relevance

## Who can apply?

The funding scheme is open to:

- Organisations based in the Republic of Ireland only

- Not-for-profit Community and Voluntary Groups
- Rural and Urban Networks
- Environmental Non-Government Organisations
- Clubs, Associations or other appropriate bodies
- Individuals may **NOT** apply

Community groups/organisations may make more than one application for funding under this scheme during the 2026 calendar year but must demonstrate clearly and to the satisfaction of LAWPRO and **their local CWO** that all previous Small Grants & Events Scheme applications have been completed/closed out in a satisfactory manner. All applications for funding under this scheme will be assessed on their own merit on a case-by-case basis.

## Who to Contact?

**Applicants MUST contact their local Community Water Officer (CWO) BEFORE submitting their application form.**

**Applications received without prior notification to and consultation with the local CWO will not be assessed.**

Contact details for LAWPRO's CWOs can be found [here](#).

## How to apply?

- Contact your local Community Water Officer to discuss your project and application. Find your local Community Water Officer on our website: [Communities Team](#)
- Apply by completing the online form in full: [LAWPRO Small Grants and Events Scheme 2026 | Online Consultation Portal of the Waters and Communities Office](#)
- If you have a query about your application or project, please contact your local Community Water Officer or [funding@lawwaters.ie](mailto:funding@lawwaters.ie)

## What level of funding is available?

- Grants awarded will typically range from €100 to €500. For awards greater than €500 there will be additional assessment criteria (see page 6).
- Applications must demonstrate good value for money and proposed costs must be in keeping with the scheme.

## What is **NOT** funded?

- Staff costs
- Teaching/staffing in schools
- Travel, fuel, and transport costs, except in exceptional circumstances
- Projects that solely benefit an individual
- Equipment, unless directly associated with the event
- Income generating initiatives

- Overheads and ongoing running costs
- Insurance
- Accommodation and subsistence

### How will my application be assessed?

- Each application will be assessed based on its merits as it is submitted.
- **There is no obligation on LAWPRO to request any outstanding or supporting information.**
- Funding will be allocated based on the recommendations of an assessment panel.
- Assessment criteria will include:
  - (a) Does the application represent value for money? **(at least one quotation is expected for each cost item listed)**
  - (b) Is the applicant community/voluntary in nature?
  - (c) Is the application realistic and achievable?
  - (d) Does the applicant demonstrate capacity to deliver?
  - (e) Will the application increase water quality awareness in the community?
  - (f) Will the application deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change and local communities?

For applicants seeking grant aid of more than €500 the following criteria will also apply:

- (g) Is the application of sufficient quality and ambition to merit a higher level of funding support?
- (h) Does the applicant have a track record with LAWPRO and the relevant experience to merit a higher level of funding support?
- **There is no guarantee that applications will be funded or partially funded.**
- LAWPRO will endeavour to have a good geographical spread of events/initiatives.

### What happens if we have been successful?

- Successful applicants will be issued with a formal letter of offer and grant Terms & Conditions.
- You will be required to accept this offer within a given time – **failure to do so may void the award.**
- Applicants in receipt of a grant greater than €500 will be required to submit a simple post event report, including proof of payments for all items, photographs and positive impacts to include: engagements, number of people in attendance, etc.
- Grants will be paid following the submission of a grant drawdown request and relevant receipts.
- **All expenditure must be incurred before 31<sup>st</sup> October and grants must be drawn down before 16<sup>th</sup> November 2026.**
- All receipts and expenditure must be maintained for a period of five years post event.

## Other grant conditions

- Where a grant is allocated to support a particular event or initiative, LAWPRO will not be responsible for the insurance or Health and Safety requirements of that event or initiative.
- LAWPRO will not be responsible for any insurance, approvals, permissions, licences, or consents that may be required by the event organiser. It is the applicant/organiser's responsibility to ensure that these are in place.
- All relevant policies such as Emergency Access & Egress, Risk Assessments & Child Protection Policy etc. must be put in place by the applicant.
- Please ensure the application form is fully complete ONLINE.

## Communications Guide

- You are required to use the LAWPRO logo & DHLGH logo on all communications. You can [download the LAWPRO & DHLGH logo here](#).
- Please document your event or initiative through photographs and short video clips. It is the responsibility of the relevant organiser to ensure appropriate permissions are in place for photographs and videos.
- A short post event/grant report is required to be submitted by the funded group. Be sure to document photographs and outcomes such as number of people in attendance at event, etc.
- Promote your project/event via social media:
  - Facebook: [@LAWPROteam](#)
  - Twitter: [@WatersProgramme](#)
  - LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/local-authority-waters-programme](https://www.linkedin.com/company/local-authority-waters-programme)
- It is important to note that: Where successful applicants are hosting a water related event or launch event associated with this funding stream provided during the period of the funding (2026), the successful applicant **MUST** liaise as soon as possible with their local CWO/LAWPRO staff to ensure that LAWPRO are notified well in advance in order to allow for appropriate promotion of the event where deemed necessary by LAWPRO. Successful applicants are required to share data and information from funded project/event outcomes with LAWPRO for promotion and reporting purposes.