



We get it—grant writing can sometimes feel like you’re navigating a maze blindfolded. In this document, we’re going to share some practical tips to make the process of grant writing less painful for social enterprises like yours.

## Finding the Right Grants

### *Common pain point:*

Locating suitable grant opportunities can be a time-consuming task for social enterprises.

### *Solutions:*

1. Subscribe to FundReady, S3 Solutions’s online database of funding grants for Irish social enterprises (<https://fundready.com/pricing/>)
2. Subscribe to FundingPoint, The Wheel’s online database of funding grants for the Irish community and voluntary sector (<https://www.wheel.ie/funding/subscribe>)
3. Join the SERI’s Funding Alerts group on Whatsapp (launching 1st November - [www.socialenterprise.ie](http://www.socialenterprise.ie))
4. Sign up for automated email alerts to receive notifications of new grant opportunities from key funders of Irish social enterprise, including:

Funder	Website
Rethink Ireland	<a href="http://www.rethinkireland.ie">www.rethinkireland.ie</a>
Pobal	<a href="http://www.pobal.ie">www.pobal.ie</a>

Community Foundation Ireland	<a href="http://www.foundation.ie">www.foundation.ie</a>
Ireland Funds	<a href="http://www.irelandfunds.org">www.irelandfunds.org</a>
Philanthropy Ireland	<a href="http://www.philanthropy.ie">www.philanthropy.ie</a>
Department of Rural & Community Development	<a href="http://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-rural-and-community-development">www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-rural-and-community-development</a>
Local Development Companies	<a href="http://www.ildn.ie">www.ildn.ie</a>
County Councils	<a href="http://www.gov.ie/en/publication/942f74-local-authorities">www.gov.ie/en/publication/942f74-local-authorities</a>
Oakfield Trust	<a href="http://www.oakfieldtrust.ie">www.oakfieldtrust.ie</a>

## The Application Process

### *Common pain point:*

Grant applications often entail a rigorous and comprehensive process that can be overwhelming.

### *Solutions:*

- Grant applications, regardless of the funding source or organisation, often contain recurring questions in the initial and concluding sections. Below, we've compiled 15 common questions to assist you in the efficient preparation of future grant applications. Copy and paste the table into a new document and complete the right-hand column for your social enterprise. This will expedite the process of grant writing by allowing for substantial content to be copied and pasted into new submissions, with minor adjustments as needed.

Information	Your response
Name of organisation	
Address (including Eircode)	
Contact Number	
Website	
Email address	
Organisation's 8-Digit Charity Number	
CRO Number	

Year organisation was established	
What are the charitable objectives of your organisation as defined in your constitution? What are the day-to-day activities of your organisation?	
Main contact person details	
Bank details (Bank name and address, IBAN, BIC, etc.)	
Constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association	
Bank or credit union account statement header	
The organisation's most recent annual accounts	
Details of leadership and key personnel (including names and experience)	

6. Outsource your grant writing to a third party. S3 Solutions' FundReady service offers an affordable monthly grant writing service from experienced grant writers (<https://fundready.com/pricing/>)
7. Use an AI grant writing tool to speed up the process. SERI members can get large discounts on AI grant writing tools from two companies ([www.grantable.co](http://www.grantable.co) and [www.grantboost.io](http://www.grantboost.io)). These services use content from your previous proposals to draft responses to new application questions, which you can revise and approve. They store all of your work automatically as a smart content library, and continue to improve as you use it.

## Time Management

### *Common pain point:*

Balancing the demands of grant writing with the broader mission of your social enterprise can be challenging.

### *Solution:*

8. Allocate dedicated time for grant writing activities and adhere to a structured schedule. For example, some social enterprise leaders block out time each week (e.g. 2pm-5pm every Monday) for tracking funding and actioning key funding priorities. This allows them to spend the rest of their week on 'running the business'.
9. Use a funding tracker to prioritise funding applications, check progress and identify next steps - all in one place (see an example below). A funding tracker is a spreadsheet which tracks:
  - upcoming funding opportunities for your social enterprise
  - your probability of securing those funding opportunities
  - your projected income from funding for the period ahead
  - the next actions your team must take to progress each opportunity

Status	Funder	Funding Amount (A)	Probability of Securing (B)	Value Projection (A x B)	Next actions
Secured	County Council	€7,000	100%	€7,000	Deliver on agreed outcomes for next quarter in the funding agreement.
Secured	Local Development Company	€2,500	100%	€2,500	Deliver on agreed outcomes for next quarter in the funding agreement.
Pipeline	Rethink Ireland	€22,500	20%	€4,500	Read the funding criteria on Rethink's website.
Pipeline	Coca Cola Thank You Fund	€1,000	20%	€200	Write first draft of the application by 10th Nov.
Secured	XYZ Corporate	€10,000	50%	€5,000	Schedule a follow-up meeting with 123's CEO to agree a CSR partnership.
Secured	Pobal	€50,000	100%	€50,000	Deliver on agreed outcomes for next quarter in the funding agreement.
Unsuccessful	ABC Trust	€10,000	0%	€0	Write to ABC to ask for feedback on our application.
	Total possible income:	€103,000	Projected Income:	€69,200	

We've provided a free template for you to use: [📄 Sample Funding Tracker for Social Enterprises](#)

## Conclusion

Grant writing, though often challenging, is a vital skill for social enterprises seeking to secure funding for their mission-driven initiatives. By recognising and addressing these common pain points with practical solutions, social enterprises can navigate the grant application process more effectively. Each grant application is an opportunity to convey your mission and secure the resources necessary to effect positive social change, making grant writing well worth the effort and perseverance.