

REACH Fund 2025 Information for Applicants



cetb

Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Chorcaí
*Cork Education and
Training Board*

The 2025 REACH Fund



- The purpose of Reach funding is to assist ETBs to increase their capacity and that of community education providers to address the decline in participation of disadvantaged learners particularly those on literacy and basic skills programmes at NFQ levels 1 to 3.
- The funding places a strong focus on community education as a mechanism to continue to support and engage with disadvantaged learners.
- Proposed projects should have no adverse impact on existing services or provision funded through the ETB.

The 2025 REACH Fund



- Reach funding to provide support to educationally disadvantaged learners in accessing and participating in community education.
- Aims to increase the participation of disadvantaged learners, particularly those who are undertaking literacy and skills programmes.
- Strong focus on building digital infrastructure, including providing devices and software, and increasing capacity to deliver learning.
- Also intended to address specific actions in the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy to target funding on access to technology and devices, expand community access to wi-fi and broadband resources and to directly address unmet literacy needs.

The 2024 REACH Fund



- Projects submitted under the 2024 REACH fund received over €450,000
- 81 individual projects
- Funding amounts ranged from €1,000 to €33,000
- No minimum or maximum funding amounts
- Proposals assessed on merits and allocation based on total amount of funding available



The 2025 REACH Fund – Conditions of Funding



- Approved funding allocation for any project funded under Reach must:
 - (a) be used for the specific purpose intended.
 - (b) be expended by 2025 year-end.
 - (c) not be used for any pay costs or costs of a recurring nature.
- For external (non-ETB) projects, any Reach funding used for staff costs must ensure that staffing commitments/contracts are for a specific purpose or fixed term and that the commitments/contracts cannot extend beyond the end of 2025.

The 2025 REACH Fund – Allocation of Funding



1. The application for funding has been reviewed using the REACH funding evaluation criteria set out above and meets the minimum score requirements.
2. All governance requirements and assurances on how this funding would be spent, if approved, have been satisfied.
3. There is no duplication of State funding.
4. Conditions of funding are complied with.

Appendix 5 – Evaluation scoring template

Copies of completed evaluation forms and applications may be requested by SOLAS for sampling.

Reach funding evaluation criteria						
Title of Reach funding proposal						
Name of community group or organisation submitting proposal:						
Essential Criteria		Part 1: Score to be achieved = 4		Part 2: Score to be achieved = 1		
		Part 3: Score to be achieved = 1		Total essential required = 6		
Total minimum score to be achieved for funding consideration (The minimum mark for all essential criteria must be achieved)						
6						
Criteria					Essential	Desirable
Part 1: One point each must be achieved for A, B, C & D						
A	The project supports the principles of Reach funding.	Yes = 1, No = 0				
B	The project does not duplicate the work or have any adverse impact on existing services or provision of community development organisations or ETBs.	Yes = 1, No = 0				
C	The project has clear and verifiable measurable Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes	Yes = 1, No = 0				
D	The project shows clear evidence of viability.	Yes = 1, No = 0				
Part 1: Total score awarded – minimum score required = 4						
Part 2: Target group of the proposed project						
F: Proposal is aimed at key target group or other priority target group. F1 or F2 below must apply.						
F1: Key target groups at which the proposal is aimed (tick all that apply)					F2: Other priority target group	
	Learners <25 Y/N	Long-term unemployed Y/N	People with disabilities Y/N	Refugee/migrant groups Y/N	Other priority target group Y/N	
F1	Member of key target group = 3					
F2	Member of other priority group = 1					
F: Sub-total score awarded - minimum score required = 1						
G1	The community group is located within unemployment blackspots or area of disadvantage within the ETB's Region					
	Yes = 1, No = 0					
G2	Community group targeting educationally disadvantaged learners					
	Yes = 1, No = 0					
G3	The project proposes innovative approaches to targeting educational disadvantage					
	Yes = 1, No = 0					
G: Score awarded						
Part 2 (F and G): Sub-total score awarded						
Part 3: Reach category addressed by proposed project						
H: Proposed project is aimed at Reach category – mark Y for all that apply; at least one must apply						
H1	Widen and increase participation of key target groups or other priority target groups					
H2	Learner supports					
H3	Climate and sustainability					
H4	Supporting marginalised groups (outreach/pre-development)					
At least one of H1 to H4 selected Yes = 1, No = 0						
Part 3: Sub-total score awarded (maximum score = 1)						
					Essential	Desirable
Sub-total score awarded (Part 1 + Part 2 + Part 3)						
Total combined essential and desirable scores awarded						

The 2025 REACH Fund – Funding Categories



1. Projects focused on widening and increasing participation of target groups⁴ in learning that offers accreditation at NFQ level 1 to 3, or on non-accredited programmes that provide clear pathways to accredited provision at NFQ levels 1 to 3.
2. Projects that will support learners to engage/participate in community based educational programmes, mentoring projects, transport costs for learners, urgent educational response*.
3. Projects that address topics such as climate justice education, education for sustainable development and building climate literacy.
4. Projects engaged in education outreach and pre-development work to support the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

* Where funding is approved for learners supports, a clear audit trail must be maintained and a form of undertaking signed by the learner in relation to the funding received.

The 2025 REACH Fund – Key Target Groups



- Learners under 25 years of age
- Long-term unemployed
- People with disabilities
- Migrants and refugees

The 2025 REACH Fund – Other Priority Target Groups



- Early school leavers
- Members of the Traveller and Roma communities
- Women wishing to return to the labour market
- Lone parents
- People who are educationally, economically or socially disadvantaged
- People impacted by mental health issues or addiction
- Women's groups and men's groups
- People impacted by homelessness
- Carers
- LGBTQIA
- Older people

The 2025 REACH Fund and Collaboration and Innovation Fund



- Reach funding is aimed at supporting individuals to access education and training provided by ETBs and community education providers.
- Reach is complemented by a national **Collaboration and Innovation (C and I) Fund** which is administered by the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) National Programme Office.
- The aim of the ALL C and I Fund is to support collaborative organisational responses to addressing literacy needs at local level
- C and I funding call will be notified separately.

The 2025 REACH Fund and Collaboration and Innovation Fund



Reach Funding Collaboration and Innovation (C and I) Fund	Reach Funding Collaboration and Innovation (C and I) Fund
Community education providers can apply to their ETB for Reach funding.	Any public, non-profit organisation can apply to the ALL National Programme Office for the CIF.
A single organisation can make application for Reach funding.	Partnership model with a minimum of two organisations needed
The purpose of Reach funding is to assist ETBs to increase their capacity and that of community education providers to address the decline in participation of educationally disadvantaged learners particularly those on literacy and basic skills programmes at NFQ levels 1 to 3.	The purpose of the C and I Fund is to support collaborative and innovative activities that will help achieve the aims of the strategy and create a more equal society. This includes activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs. • Supports a whole-of-society response to unmet adult literacy needs.
The funding was specifically designed to tackle inequalities and support access to community education.	The funding is to support individuals and or groups experiencing unmet literacy, numeracy or digital literacy needs through new and innovative approaches using a partnership model.
Targets funding to support educationally disadvantaged learners in accessing and participating in community education.	Target funding on innovation activities that support the priority groups named in the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy.
Must be used to support organisations that support individuals with unmet needs.	Can be used to support an individual with unmet needs
<p>Key target groups: Learners under 25 years of age; long-term unemployed; people with disabilities; migrants and refugees.</p> <p>Other priority target groups: Early school leavers; members of the Traveller and Roma communities; women wishing to return to the labour market; lone parents; people who are educationally, economically or socially disadvantaged; people impacted by mental health issues or addiction; women’s groups and men’s groups; people impacted by homelessness; carers; LGBTQIA; older people.</p>	<p>Target groups: Older adults (55+); members of the Traveller community; people with disabilities; one-parent households; low paid workers; carers; long-term unemployed; migrants; international protection applicants; people with language needs; incarcerated persons and ex-offenders; persons recovering from addiction.</p>
ETBs manage Reach funding.	ALL National Programme Office in SOLAS manage the C and I Fund.

The 2025 REACH Fund – IMPORTANT



- The number of applications and the amount of funding requested are likely to exceed the available funding.
- Applicant organisations will be asked to confirm that if the a grant of the full amount applied for is not possible, that they are in a position to proceed with their proposals given a reduced grant allocation.

The 2025 REACH Fund – Application Process



- Details and application form (MS Forms) at www.corketb.ie
- the closing date for submission of applications to Cork ETB is **5:00 on Friday 4th April 2025**.
- Community groups will be supported by your regions Adult Education Officer and FET Area Coordinator
- All funding information, including final claim, will have to be submitted by **Friday 7th November 2025**

The 2025 REACH Fund –Process



- CETB would intend to have all applications processed and confirmation of grant funding issued by end April 2025
- Grant funding will issue on receipt of required documentation
- A condition of funding is a commitment to the timely return of the organisations REACH fund report for 2025.