

Dòchas Grant Allocation Criteria Document

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Purpose of the Document

The purpose of this document is to describe the criteria that the Dòchas board will use to determine whether a community project will be funded and how community groups can go about applying to the Dòchas board for funding.

Contents

Dòchas Grant Allocation Criteria Document.....	1
Purpose of the Document.....	2
Contents	Error! Bookmark not defined.
What are the Dòchas grants for?.....	3
What are the main objectives?.....	4
Is my organisation eligible to apply?	5
What grants are available?	6
How are applications assessed	7
Is there anything that will not be funded?	8
What are the deadlines for applications?.....	8
How do we apply?	8
How will the grant be paid out?	9
What are the conditions of the grant award?	9

What are the Dòchas grants for?

The Fund is aimed at organisations that provide or seek to provide activities or services that focus on any of the objectives outlined below. Grants should be used for projects which address the issues, needs and aspirations of the community of Applecross. Dochas is seeking projects that will make a difference and applications will be assessed against various criteria; it must be demonstrated that one or more objectives will be met to be considered for a grant.

Dochas expects to fund a wide range of community projects of different sizes, aimed at developing skills; improving health; relieving poverty; protecting or conserving the environment; engaging citizens to become more active in the community; promoting and protecting the rich heritage and culture of the area; and developing, revitalising and growing industry sectors.

Dòchas is offering grants to community projects in the Applecross peninsula. The aim of the Fund is to support organisations to develop, thrive and grow; therefore further supporting future sustainability and community resilience.

The Fund operates using income from donations and investments from a variety of sources.

There are 2 choices of grants to apply for; a small or large grant. Please see more information on each on page six.

All grants may be paid in advance and must be evidenced by receipts. Large Grants will generally be paid in instalments which may include an advance payment if justified.

For information, these grants do not involve public funds.

What are the main objectives?

Please note that these are not ranked in order of importance. The table seeks to outline some of the activities that will be considered.

Objectives	Purpose	Examples
A: Developing skills	Projects or activities that seek to develop expertise, grow confidence and help communities to be better equipped for harnessing opportunities.	Developing, growing and optimising skills.
B: Improving health	Programmes that seek to improve health through innovative means that will improve a diverse range of community conditions.	Project could include activities that wish to consider safety, educational attainment or access to healthy food, and safe, affordable housing.
C: Relieving poverty	To support inclusive growth and empower communities to look at innovative ways of reducing poverty and increasing community services.	Any project or activity that focuses on responding directly to those in most need and will aim to alleviate fuel poverty, social poverty, unemployment etc.
D: Protecting and conserving the environment	The key objective is to encourage meaningful involvement of communities in the implementation of activities that seek to protect and conserve, therefore building capacity.	To support themes such as wildlife protection, animal welfare, habitat conservation, ecotourism, and alternative sources of income to support conservation.
E: Engaging citizens to become more active in the community	Projects aimed at supporting community progress and sustaining communities in a democratic way.	Projects should look at innovative ways of engaging communities, activities might include support for social entrepreneurship, access and adoption of technologies.
F: Promoting and protecting the rich heritage and culture of the area	Projects that aim to promote and protect the culture and language; raising awareness of and encouraging community participation in protecting cultural resources.	Projects might include publication of a book in the Gaelic language, live performances of indigenous arts, traditional methods; among many other possible forms.
G: Developing, revitalising and growing industry sectors	Projects aimed to revitalise or revive industry sectors, which will further spur development, attract talent and increase investment in the area.	Projects may focus on key sectors such as tourism, crofting, renewables, health and wellbeing etc and activities should seek to provide solutions to current issues as well as creating an appetite for growth.

Is my organisation eligible to apply?

Organisations applying for grants must:

- be generally situated/the beneficiaries situated in the Applecross peninsula area.*
- the organisations must have a constitution or set of rules setting out the organisation's aims and objectives
- have at least three members
- hold a Bank or building society account in the name of the organisation (with at least two signatories)
- be able to spend the grant within the specified timescale.

*Applications can also be considered from organisations based outwith the Applecross peninsula if they can demonstrate clear benefits for Applecross residents.

What grants are available?

SMALL GRANT: £500 and under

This Grant is aimed at support of £500 and under. The money should be spent within a 12 month period from the letter of offer and receipts must be provided. This Grant can be applied for twice in any year by an organisation. If applying for a second time, there must be at least 6 months between awards. Please note that this fund can be up to 100%, however, match funding would be looked upon favourably in competition of other applicants.

LARGE GRANT: Over £500

It is expected this will be used to make some real impacts against the priorities set out. The money must be spent within a 24 month period from the letter of offer and there must be at least 24 months between awards. For this Grant, a set of up to date accounts or recent financial statement must be submitted with the application. The Dòchas board have full discretion of the amount they distribute in funds per year. We anticipate having a ceiling figure of £15,000 per annum, as illustrated in our objectives.

Applying for the Small Grant would not disallow an organisation from being able to submit a Large Grant application. The time restriction is 6 months between Small Grant applications and 24 months between the Large Grant, but no restriction exists between the Small Grant and the Large Grant.

How are applications assessed

Assessment of all Grant applications will be based on meeting Dòchas objectives. Please review the following table, all grants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Each application will be assessed on its own merits using a scoring matrix and the amount of grant awarded may differ from the amount applied for.

Applications will be assessed by the Dòchas Board at regular meetings.

Organisation and capacity to deliver the project to completion	Does the organisation has a wide range of members, experienced personnel/team to take the project through to completion, a previous track-record, good community engagement and a sustainable operating model with income generating potential ?
Evidence of need	Explain the justification for the project, through research demonstrating need, ideally specific market research, clear market and users identified, potential substitution for services/facilities delivered outwith the community, etc.
Duplication of services	To avoid duplicating services within the community, explain the aspects that makes the project/activity different.
Value for Money	Provide costings or quotes, three quotes if possible, highlight any physical/tangible outputs expected and detail other funding contributions proposed.
Collaboration	Highlight the level of collaboration and partnership with organisations and businesses across the community and/or with external organisations and businesses already engaged in beneficial activities across the community.
Supply-chain	Demonstrate the extent to which locally supplied goods and services are being used for the project and/or ongoing operations.
Expected benefit/impact	Consider the potential impacts and community benefit from the activity or project. Indicate the broader or longer-term effects of a project's or organisation's outputs and outcomes towards strategic aims.

Is there anything that will not be funded?

Dochas will not fund:

- projects or activities that do not meet any of the objectives outlined
- projects that cannot be completed within the period of the grant allocation (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
- projects or activities that the local council or other authorities have a legal obligation to provide
- projects that breach our environmental & ethical policy outlined with Applecross Forum

What are the deadlines for applications?

Applications will be accepted twice a year. The deadline for applications is 28th February and 30th October each year. Decisions will be made by the 11th April and 11th December consecutively.

How do we apply?

You can find the application form on the website www.dochasapplecross.org

How will the grant be paid out?

We will pay your grant by bank transfer (BACS) and can only be paid into the organisation named in the grant letter of offer.

If your timescales have changed you must let us know as soon as possible. If the project is not going to go ahead in the agreed timescales, we may ask you to return any grant amounts paid out. We ask for this as we may be able to use it to support another organisation who is ready at the time. This would not stop you from re-applying when you are ready.

What are the conditions of the grant award?

A letter of offer will be sent to organisations if they are awarded a grant, along with a document outlining the individual conditions of the grant award.

We will ask that you read this document carefully, sign it and return it, keeping one copy for your own records.

**For more information please visit the website www.dochasapplecross.org
Alternatively, you can email: dochasapplecross@gmail.com**