

APPLYING

This requires both organisation and perseverance. You need to confirm:

- Alignment to funder's criteria
- Deadline for submission
- Timeframe for decision
- Format of proposal
- Additional documents needed (e.g. constitution, accounts, bank statement)
- Method of submission

Applications are stronger if they are:

- Clear
- Concise
- Compelling

Using evidence and giving examples of impact on individuals or a community can really help to make an application come alive.



RESOURCING

The Priorities Fund supports training, Christian education, outreach, and innovative rural ministries. <https://priorities.ireland.anglican.org/>

The Church Fabric and Development Fund and Marshal Beresford's Fund award grants for the restoration of Church of Ireland church buildings. <https://tinyurl.com/mw8ma2tk>

General information on grants from outside the Church of Ireland. <https://tinyurl.com/8x6dz3nx>



Diocesan contact for advice and application review

Keith Gardiner

Fundraising Officer for Church Growth
E: kgardiner@downdromorediocese.org
www.downanddromore.org



SOURCING FUNDING

First Steps



WHERE TO START:

Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

PROV. 19:21

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.

PROV. 16:3

ENVISIONING

Whether you are seeking funding to support a new initiative, staff member or building, it is vital to have a clear, concise and inspiring description of the vision God has given you:

- *What do you want to do?*
- *Why do you want to do it?*
- *Who will benefit?*
- *What is the benefit?*

To persuade a funder that your initiative is worth supporting, you will need evidence:

- *Identifying the need (e.g. ministry need; community or church survey; building report)*
- *Defining the outcomes (delivery of activity; short and long-term impact on people's lives)*

PLANNING

Having established the vision, the next step is to plan how you are going to achieve your vision:

- *How will you do it?*
- *Are any permissions needed?*
- *When do you want to start?*
- *How long will it take?*
- *How much will it cost?*

To establish a credible plan, you will need a group of volunteers with the right knowledge and skills, availability and willingness to work together.

Who will:

- *Chair the group?*
- *Assess options?*
- *Estimate costs?*
- *Inform the congregation?*
- *Write applications?*

PREPARING

Before applying to funders, churches need to develop a funding strategy - i.e. what funding:

- *Can be allocated from reserves*
- *Can the congregation raise*
- *Needs to be sourced externally*

Grant givers expect applicants to raise a significant proportion of the required project funding themselves.

Each funder has priorities - these may relate to location or nature of the project, or the population benefitting. It is therefore necessary to direct your application to funders most likely to support your specific initiative. Funders will assess applications for:

- *Eligibility*
- *Feasibility*
- *Significance of impact*
- *Value for money*

