SEEDS OF CHANGE

SMALL GRANTS & MENTORING PROGRAMME
2026/2027 **GUIDELINES**

Please note that this application process is intended to support participation in the Seeds of Change Funding & Mentoring Programme. It does not intend to add an administrative burden to any group. Should you encounter difficulties at any stage of the application process, the Project Worker is available to provide support in completing this application form. All questions are good questions and will help us make this process easier so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

ABOUT CHANGEMAKERS

ChangeMakers Donegal is an adult education project, we provide access to lifelong learning opportunities to identify the root causes and potential solutions to local and global justice issues such as hunger, poverty, inequality and climate change through Development Education, also known as Global Citizenship Education. This approach aims to support individuals to understand and transform their world by tackling the root causes of injustice and inequality to fostering a fairer and more sustainable future for all. For more information, please visit www.changemakers.ie.

Funded by Irish Aid, ChangeMakers Donegal is delivered through partnerships between; the Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal ETB, Self Help Africa, Trócaire and Concern Worldwide.

ABOUT THE SEED OF CHANGE FUNDING AND MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Seeds of Change Funding & Mentoring Programme exists to explicitly make the connection between global issues and local action. Our form of education seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of our changing, interdependent, and unequal world.

ChangeMakers Donegal is offering ten small grants of up to €650 to community and voluntary groups who wish to deliver an activity or series of activities connected with a local or global justice issue. Proposed activities should aim to help local people and groups:

- Deepen their understanding of issues.
- Explore creative and collective solutions.
- Lead to meaningful action at a local level.

A Global Justice Focus – What do we mean by that?

Global Justice Issues are systems that prevent people and planet living their lives safely and sustainably in any area Some examples would be:

Poverty

Discrimination

Hunger

Pollution

Human rights

Financial or tax justice

Seed Sovereignty

Food Security

Access to education

Access to Decision making and resources

Gender Equality

Food Security

Health

Conflict

Migration

Denial of Culture, heritage or language

Climate Change

Extractive industries

Biodiversity loss

THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT FACTORS AT PLAY, HOW DO WE DEFINE IT?

We acknowledge that many local and global justice issues can have multiple facets and often there is no one category that fits perfectly but we have three broad categories. Whilst we don't expect a perfect fit, we would like you to think of the main area that applies to your proposal for example: Category I - Social Justice (Discrimination, Health, Education); Category II - Economic Justice (Trade, Intellectual property, Indigenous knowledge, Tax, or Category III - Environmental Justice. (Pollution, biodiversity loss, extractives)

For those unsure of or less familiar with these categories, we would direct you to explore our Sustainability Passport and consider which of the five routes is most relevant:

- Water and Energy ☐
- Reuse and Recycle ☐
- Responsible Consumption ☐
- Biodiversity and Gardening ☐
- Equality and Inclusion ☐

If in any doubt under or email Cara at changemakers@inishowen.ie, who will be happy to answer any questions. **Please note that this application process is intended to support participation and does not wish to add an administrative burden to any group. The Project Worker is available to provide support in completing this application form.**

APPLICATION FORM QUESTIONS – CLARIFICATION AND SUGGESTIONS

Details of proposed project: Provide details of the activity, including the title and planned activities.

Addressing local and global justice issues: This is a limited fund; it is not meant to be a substitute for organisational programme funding. The Seeds of Change Funding & Mentoring Programme exists to explicitly make the connection between global issues and local action. Our form of education seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of our changing, interdependent, and unequal world.

1. What broad category of injustice does this activity seek to address? (see p.2 for examples)
2. What does this issue look like in your community?
3. How will this activity deepen understanding of the causes and consequences of the issue or support finding solutions to it
4. How do you hope this activity will encourage meaningful local action.

Target Group(s). Who is this activity aimed at (Please note ChangeMakers only supports Adults in the community).

As a project, we are interested in increasing cross-border collaboration, so be sure to note in your application if it has the capacity to collaborate with a group or organisation in Northern Ireland.

Project/Activity duration.

1. How long will activity be? Hours/Days/Weeks duration or brevity are not necessary for assessment and are for information purposes only.
2. What date do you intend to start?
3. When do you expect to finish?

4. What do you hope will happen in your group or community as a result of this activity

Number of people that you hope to involve. How many people id this activity intended to reach.(It is important to keep note of the number of participants in your project activities, including the contact details of all participants (email addresses) so you can invite them to future events.)

Breakdown of Cost of Project: Please show all costs for **each** element for example: Tutor Cost, venue rental, refreshment, and materials.

Total Estimated Cost: Add all the costs above and include the amount of income towards the project from any other source (other grants, admission or subscription/membership fees),

Contributions in kind, expertise, donations, venue provision that have been freely provided etc).

Clearly state the grant amount sought from ChangeMakers Seeds of Change Grant Scheme.

Bank Account Details: Please supply your Bank Account Details to ensure an electronic transfer of funds is granted. Funds can only be paid into a registered bank account. If your group does not have a bank account it may be possible, with agreement to pay it into a supporting organisation. Please contact ChangeMakers to discuss.

Once the deadline is passed and the applications have all been assessed for eligibility, ChangeMakers will endeavour to ensure an equal distribution of the awards across the three categories and from across County Donegal as a whole.

A NOTE ON MENTORING.

A condition of being awarded a grant under this programme is a commitment to work with a ChangeMakers mentor. Further information on the role of the mentor will be available if you are successful in your application. In short, the purpose of the mentor is to support the connection between local action and global issues either as a group or an activity. The mentor will be assigned from the ChangeMakers panel of Global Citizenship Education practitioners and facilitators. Up to seven hours of mentoring service is provided free of charge and the focus and form is moulded to suit each activity.

IF YOU ARE SUCESSFUL IN YOUR APPLICATION:

The form of activity is not fixed, funding may be provided for an event, workshop, series of workshops, talk, or other global justice-themed activity. We are particularly interested in supporting new approaches and hearing from those who have not previously engaged with ChangeMakers. For example, young adults aged 18-26.

- Please note that funding support will normally cover only part of the total cost of the activity. Participants will be expected to contribute either a direct financial contribution or an ‘in-kind’ contribution. (For example, volunteer time, materials, venue, expertise etc).
- ChangeMakers' role must be acknowledged during the project. The ChangeMakers logo must appear on all promotional material published about the funded project.
- Incomplete application forms will not be considered if you have any difficulties or require support, please contact the Project Worker.
- If the funding application is successful, 50% of the overall allocation approved is released to the group at the start of the project. This usually happens after your first consultation with your assigned mentor. The final 50% will be released upon receipt of all documentation requested. A list of which will be provided in the initial approval letter for funding. This normally includes an attendance record; payments record and a report from you the successful applicant. This is incredibly important as it informs the next grant round and it is used by ChangeMakers’ to feed back to Irish Aid who provide the funding for this grant.
- If we do not receive the documentation or final report from you within the timeline laid out in your acceptance letter, the final 50% of the grant will be forfeit and it may affect your ability to access future grant aid from ChangeMakers.

Please Note: Closing date for completion of projects and submission of Final Report is Friday 23rd April 202 at 5pm

ITEMS WHICH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING:

- Facilitator/Tutor fees
- Materials required for a particular course or activity
- Contribution towards administration costs (where no paid administration costs already exist)
- Rent of venue
- Publicity
- Pre-development / capacity building work with groups
- Cost of tea/coffee, light refreshments

FUNDING *IS NOT* AVAILABLE FOR:

- Youth Clubs/Groups (ChangeMakers can only fund adult groups and audiences)
- Groups without a bank account. We are open to supporting an activity where the group has no bank account, but another eligible organisation agrees to hold and pay out funding on their behalf.
- Sports Clubs
- Community Centre assets or materials such as computers, cookers, tables, or other items
- Day Trips
- Lunches/Dinners
- The funding of individuals to carry out training on behalf of a group is not acceptable (i.e., If the person applying for funding is the proposed tutor for the course)
- Payment for individuals within the group to undertake training courses on their own behalf.

OTHER POINTS TO NOTE:

- It is *not* good practice for the proposed facilitators/tutors to be members of the committee of an applicant group.
- When assessing applications from established groups, priority will be given to those meeting the aim of the Seeds of Change Grant and Mentoring Programme, showing commitment and innovation in the proposed choice of activity. This is important, as unlike other available funding, ChangeMakers exists to explicitly make the connection between global issues and local action, and to educate adults in Donegal about global justice. The mentoring programme is a useful opportunity to learn more as a group, by working with an experienced facilitator for the project period.
- ChangeMakers requires evidence of expenditure. We will ask for original supporting documentation in respect of income and expenditure relating to each course, e.g., invoices and receipts.
- The group will publicly acknowledge the support of the ChangeMakers Seeds of Change Grant Programme in all publicity and promotional material, including social media.
- All funded groups must complete a report on their activity. Details about the evaluation will be made available to the groups that successfully access funding under this scheme. Again, this is not meant to be a burden or barrier, of you have any questions or require support, please contact the Project Worker who can help.
- All funded groups are expected to make every effort to attend the ChangeMakers Annual Seminar (typically held in May/June each year) to share information about their completed project and accept their Seeds of Change Award.

TAX STATEMENT

ChangeMakers does not accept responsibility for the tax affairs of any organisation receiving grant aid. Each organisation is responsible for its own tax affairs. Information is available from the Donegal District Tax Office on **074 91 69400.** Opening hours are **Monday through Friday, 9.15 a.m. to 5.30p.m.**

THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice**.**

Further information can be found at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/.

Visit our website at www.changemakers.ie to find out more about our Sustainability Passport programme in Donegal.