

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME OPEN CALL 2025 GUIDELINES

Roscommon County Council is tasked with the implementation at local level of the Commemorative Programme.

What is the Commemorative Programme?

The State continues to adopt a supportive and facilitative approach in planning for commemorations, while not replicating the Decade of Centenaries Programme in scope or scale, and in the context of the annual budget and resources available.

Patrick O'Donovan T.D., Minister for Tourism Culture Arts Gaeltacht Sport and Media, has approved a grant funding allocation for every Local Authority in 2025, stating *"2024 was a transitional year for commemorations following the completion of the Commemorative Programme in December 2023. We continued to mark the significant centenaries that fell between 2012-2023, but also other historical events and themes that shaped our nation could be acknowledged and remembered appropriately, using the structure and ethos established by the Commemorative Programme. I am pleased to note that this broadening of scope was positively received, and has enabled the delivery of many engaging initiatives covering new and impactful historical events and topics."*

It is my hope that the commemorative funding for 2025 will continue to facilitate the creation of opportunities for all our communities to consider and explore the formative events of our past, in all of their complexity, and in a respectful and supportive environment. The principles and guidance set out by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations will continue to support and guide the State's approach to commemorations."

The principles and work of the Expert Advisory Group leaves a permanent legacy, which will continue to support and guide future commemorations. Further information is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-tourism-culture-arts-gaeltacht-sport-and-media/publications/decade-of-centenaries/>

Roscommon Commemorative Programme Open Call Grants 2025

The key objective of the Open Call is to support community-led commemorative initiatives to mark the centenaries of locally significant historical events in 1925, and other notable anniversaries of key events in the early years of the State, as well as other significant anniversaries and associated themes.

The level of grant assistance for any one event/project will average €1,000. In very exceptional circumstances, Roscommon County Council reserves the right to award a sum in excess of this to a project.

This fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups and venues. **Applications by individuals must be in partnership with a community group or organisation.**

Strategic Priorities for the Roscommon Commemorative Programme Open Call Grants 2025

All initiatives should be aligned with the **principles and guidance of the Expert Advisory Group for the Commemorative Programme**, which are still relevant and helpful. The Group's advice is that local commemorative endeavours could helpfully focus on acknowledging the significance of an event in an inclusive, respectful, sensitive and non-partisan way. The emphasis must always be on remembrance and commemoration of locally significant historical events and the avoidance of any sense of celebration.

The Group indicates that local cultural organisations, archives, museums, and libraries, will continue to have a significant role to offer as '*cultural brokers*', managing conversations, building relationships and engaging communities in a meaningful way through various forms of creative expression.

The theme of Roscommon County Council's Open Call is **Reflection**: Community-led commemoration and reflection; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events and themes that have particular significance within counties, parishes and communities.

Suggestions by the Expert Advisory Group for initiatives/delivery mechanisms

- Initiatives that encourage and support **local research, scholarship** and free public access to authentic **local archival sources**, including online access to digitised local archives.
- Approaches that encourage engagement with audiences of all ages **online**, e.g. development of curated digital content, online exhibitions, podcasts, webinars, virtual tours, artistic and creative endeavours, and other online outreach activities.
- Support for **essential cleaning, maintenance, or restoration** of memorials and monuments relevant to locally significant historical events in the early years of the State. Works to surrounding areas or on-site facilities and proposals for new monuments or memorials will not be eligible for funding.
- Support for the **planting of trees and related projects** by Tidy Towns Committees or other interested community organisations in planting trees or creating commemorative groves, gardens, or other similar projects, to mark the significant historical events being remembered. All projects supported from this allocation must be developed appropriately, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, and with a focus on reconciliation and shared remembrance. Before proceeding, the organising committee should seek expert advice from the Local Authority (Area, Heritage or Environment Offices as appropriate), to ensure that all trees planted are native species and are suitable for the proposed planting area. A sustainability plan for the ongoing maintenance of the area should also be put in place. All projects funded must be located on appropriate ground and required permissions and insurances must be in place.

It is recommended that information panels, rather than plaques, are used to inform the public about the meaning and significance of the projects funded.

Ineligible Activities

The following activities are not eligible for funding from this allocation:

- Provision of new memorials, monuments, plaques, busts or statues;
- Hiring or purchase of replica weapons or uniforms and military re-enactments;
- Production of commemorative medals or pins;
- General administration or other activities outside of the scope of the commemorative initiative(s) supported from this allocation; and
- Commercial activities.

Selection Criteria

Grant applications received by Roscommon County Council will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed event/project is aligned to the theme of Reflection (outlined above) and that the language and messaging around all commemorative initiatives is appropriate, sensitive, inclusive, and respectful;
- The extent to which the proposed event/project maximises community and citizen engagement;
- The potential scope of the event/project and anticipated target audience;
- The cost of the proposed event/project and any additional supports and funding that may be required or have been confirmed;
- The event/project must be based in County Roscommon;
- Completion of the project within the current year.

Funding

- Payment must be made to community groups and not to individual(s).
- The quantity and value of awards will depend on available funding, number of applicants and quality of applications.
- The level of grant assistance for any one event/project will be in the region of €1,000. In very exceptional circumstances, Roscommon County Council reserves the right to award a sum in excess of this to Commemorative Programme projects.
- The Commemorative Programme must be publicly acknowledged in all advertisements and publicity in relation to any event/project funded under this initiative with appropriate use of the Commemorative Programme and Roscommon County Council logos.
- Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer that will form the contract between Roscommon County Council and the organiser and will detail all conditions and requirements.
- A list of successful projects will be published on Roscommon County Council's website.
- All applicants who have been awarded grant assistance must produce evidence of the following before commencement of the event/project:-
 - Evidence of legal structure (e.g. CLG, Ad-hoc Group etc)
 - Evidence of registration for VAT (if applicable)
 - Proof of tax clearance
 - Evidence of insurances where applicable
 - Evidence of registration with the Public Participation Network PPN (recommended)
 - Child Protection Policy where applicable
- Please note it is the responsibility of the organiser to have secured all approvals, permissions, licences or consents needed for the event/project.
- Following completion of the event, and in order to draw down funding, the successful applicant must submit a detailed report together with the following:
 - Evidence that the event has taken place e.g. photographic evidence
 - Receipts for the full costs
- Payment to successful applicants will be made by electronic fund transfer only.

Applications

Applications are available at the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/uYbWSiLOz7> and will only be accepted via this method.

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 3rd June at 5pm.

Late applications will not be accepted.