**REGENERATION CAPITAL GRANT FUND (RCGF)**

**2024-25 – ROUND 11 FUNDING**

**GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS AT STAGE 1**

**Overview**

The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) has been delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government and COSLA since 2014.

The RCGF supports locally developed, place-based regeneration projects that involve local communities, helping to tackle inequalities and deliver inclusive growth in deprived, disadvantaged, and fragile remote communities across Scotland.

It is open to applications from local councils and Clyde Gateway.

Applicants can bid for grants from an available £25 million in 2024 to 2025 as part of a two-stage application process. This guidance covers stage one of the process.

Applications for stage one are open for projects ready to be delivered during the 2024 to 2025 financial year if funded.

### **Aims and objectives**

The RCGF is primarily aimed at either providing new infrastructure or enhancing existing infrastructure that will improve the economic, social, and physical environment of communities.

Projects should also detail how they are contributing towards the target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Projects should:

* focus on areas that suffer from high levels of deprivation and disadvantage
* demonstrate clear community involvement
* deliver large scale transformational change with strong regeneration outcomes
* encourage additional investment and address market failure in communities

Applications are not restricted in geography, size, or type of project; it will be for the applicant to demonstrate that the project fits with the aims and objectives of the fund.

The RCGF supports place-based approaches to delivering regeneration and inclusive growth and is aligned to the [Place Principle](https://www.gov.scot/publications/place-principle-introduction/).

### **Strategic context**

The RCGF is continuing as part of the Place Based Investment Programme.

The intent of the Place Based Investment Programme is to link and align all place-based funding initiatives to ensure there is a coherent approach to sustained longer term renewal, promoting the resilience, health, and wellbeing of communities across Scotland. This was agreed between the Scottish Government, COSLA and local government.

It supports our ambitions for community regeneration, place, town centres, and 20-minute neighbourhoods with the involvement of local councils and communities in taking forward relevant activities.

Projects supported from the RCGF will reflect the following strategic areas of priority and core principles (and will deliver across the National Outcomes):

* [The Place Principle](https://www.gov.scot/publications/place-principle-introduction/)
* [Regeneration Strategy](https://www.gov.scot/publications/achieving-sustainable-future-regeneration-strategy/)
* [Town Centre Action Plan](https://www.gov.scot/publications/town-centre-action-plan-review-joint-scottish-government-cosla-response/) and [Town Centre First Principle](https://www.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/town-centre-regeneration/)
* [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/)
* [Climate Change Plan](https://www.gov.scot/publications/securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero-update-climate-change-plan-20182032/)
* [Climate Action Towns](https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/)
* [National Planning Framework 4](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/)
* [Scotland’s National Strategy for Economic Transformation](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-strategy-economic-transformation/)
* [Community Wealth Building](https://www.gov.scot/policies/cities-regions/community-wealth-building/)
* [Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity](https://www.transformingplanning.scot/media/2131/securing-positive-effects-for-biodiversity.pdf)
* [Public Health Scotland’s strategic plan](https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-organisation/a-scotland-where-everybody-thrives-public-health-scotland-s-strategic-plan-2022-to-2025/)
* [Fair Work and Pay](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-work-first-guidance/)
* local authority local economic development, regeneration, Local Development and Strategic Development Plans

### **Eligible projects**

At stage one, you must be able to demonstrate that your project:

* meets [the programme aims](https://www.gov.scot/publications/regeneration-capital-grant-fund/pages/overview/)
* can spend or commit any funding by end March 2025
* has involved the community in its design
* will help to achieve net-zero targets

You can apply for 100% of project costs, but projects that can demonstrate match funding will be looked on favourably by the investment panel.

You can make more than one application. However as there are limited funds available (£25 million for 2024 to 2025) you should be realistic about what you are asking for. Don’t include projects that are still at feasibility stage.

### **Multi-year project proposals**

We recognise that some projects are more complex than others and may take longer to deliver. For that reason, multi-year project proposals will be accepted.

### **Ineligible projects and expenditure**

The fund is a capital expenditure fund. Future running costs are not eligible.

The fund is not intended to be a primary source of funding for:

* housing projects (but can support ancillary outcomes)
* major infrastructure projects relating to transport
* purchase of moveable infrastructure, e.g. furniture and fittings.
* projects relating solely to hotel or retail developments – these are unlikely to be supported if there are no clear regeneration outcomes
* projects that focus solely on public realm improvements, new roads / paths or upgrades - these are unlikely to be funded.  However, these may be eligible if they are elements within wider regeneration projects which will produce economic and social outcomes
* flood protection/work/upgrades

Please note, where a project is successful in receiving a recommendation and offer of grant, drawdown must take place in line with the approved profile. There is no facility to carry over grant into subsequent financial years. Failure to meet the timescales in the offer of grant may result in the offer of grant being withdrawn.

Project end dates may go beyond the funding period outlined in the application. However, it should be clear what the sources of funding for this activity will be.

### **How your application will be assessed**

All stage one applications will be evaluated by an independent investment panel with expertise in place-based regeneration.

The investment panel is co-chaired by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Applications will be assessed against the:

* basic eligibility criteria
* ability to meet the aims and objectives of the programme
* readiness to make use of available grant in 2024 to 2025
* wider strategic fit

You will be notified of the panel’s decision by the end of August 2023.

If your stage one application is successful, you will be invited to provide more details about your project at stage two. We will publish guidance on stage two in due course.

If your project is unsuccessful, you will be provided feedback, to help you decide whether to apply to a future funding round.

The panel’s recommendations are final and will not be reconsidered.

### **Legal requirements**

Project proposals are invited on the basis that necessary legal requirements are covered for projects to deliver in 2024 to 2025.

This means that Public Procurement, Subsidy Control, Environmental Impact, Equalities Impact Assessment, Planning Permission, Fairer Scotland Duty (as part of the Equality Act 2010,) and any other legal requirements which are specific to individual projects have been considered and addressed by applicants.

All projects will need to comply with all relevant legislation relating to the implementation of projects. Local authorities/ Clyde Gateway URC will be responsible for ensuring these elements. Further information may be required from applicant organisations at stage 2 and potentially prior to any offer of grant being issued.

**How to apply**

To apply to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, you should:

1. Complete the stage one application form
2. Email it to: communityregenerationfund@highland.gov.uk  by**0900 hours on Monday 12 June 2023**
3. We will then check your application before submitting it to the Scottish Government by 21 June 2023 for consideration

You will be asked to provide details of:

* estimated costs
* any match funding
* how your project will meet the programme aims
* community involvement in your project

## Dates

The estimated timeline for the 2024 to 2025 funding round is as follows:

### Stage one

* 21 June 2023 - application deadline
* August 2023 - investment panel recommendations and applicants notified

### Stage two

* November 2023 - application deadline
* December 2023 - investment panel recommendations agreed
* early 2024 - projects for 2024-25 funding announced
* to March 2025 - grant drawdown/project delivery (year 1)