
Family Matters grant programme 2022-2024 Expression of interest guidelines

Please read the guidelines carefully before proceeding – if you're not sure whether your initiative is eligible for funding, you're welcome to contact us.

Background

St Stephen's Green Trust (SSGT) is an independent social justice grant-maker which works across the island of Ireland. Our primary purpose is to make grants to groups to allow them to effect positive social change in areas which trustees deem to be critical. SSGT believes supporting advocacy and activism to achieve social change is the best use of independent funding and this forms the basis of our strategic philanthropy. We aim to work in solidarity with grantees in a way which respects their dignity and leadership in the causes we fund. We commit to effective stewardship of the funds entrusted to us by our donors. SSGT has supported people and families affected by imprisonment and convictions for the past 30 years. More information about our work is on our website – www.ssgt.ie.

SSGT believes putting families at the heart of the criminal justice system and processes is the 'golden thread'¹ which can reduce the harm of imprisonment and contribute to rehabilitation. Therefore, a strategic aim of SSGT is to **contribute to improving the system of support for families affected by convictions and imprisonment to improve rehabilitation and resettlement outcomes**. Evidence shows that prisoners who manage to maintain family bonds whilst in prison have significantly reduced reoffending risks upon release. Families cannot bear this burden alone and should be supported in this role. However, SSGT acknowledges family relationships are complex and systems should take account of the best interests of both the family and the prisoner.

Grant Programme Outcomes

SSGT has developed a strategy for the grant programme which emerged from a [Current Context](#) paper. We believe that supporting the improvement and development of family centred approaches leads to improved outcomes for all. The voice of those most affected should be heard in policy and practice as this will lead to more effective supports as well as developing understanding of what works best. Duty bearers need to be held accountable for mitigating the harms of imprisonment on those who are/were incarcerated and their families. SSGT believes advocacy and activism is an important element of achieving systems change and it will be incorporated into both grant-aided work and the programme strategy. Activities which support families should be accessible to all and take account of the diversity of prisoners and families affected by imprisonment and the different pathways in and out of imprisonment and convictions.

SSGT is also working with the IPRT on its [Children and Families Network](#), a network of community-based organisations, researchers and advocacy groups focused on children and families affected by

¹ The Farmer Review (2017) identified the principle of strengthening family relationships as a 'golden thread' that should run through the prison system and agencies that surround it.

imprisonment. The recommendations in IPRT’s 2021 report, [‘Piecing it Together: Supporting Children and Families with a Family Member in Prison in Ireland’](#) are aligned to the outcomes SSGT is seeking for this grant programme. The report’s analysis and recommendations provide a good basis for understanding SSGT’s theory of change on the pathways to effecting positive and progressive change.

SSGT’s approach, as a small grantmaker, is to work towards outcomes to which it can best contribute, given identified need and opportunities to engage. Therefore, the grant programme will seek to make a contribution to the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Family-centred approaches to rehabilitation and reintegration become normalised in the prison system, at the point of imprisonment, during the sentence and on release: we are interested in work with people affected by imprisonment and convictions which has a strategic focus on their role as family members, and a recognition that partners and children serve the sentence too. This is a systems-focused approach which uses current evidence to effect change.

Outcome 2: The voice of prisoners and their families adds to the evidence base and understanding of the value of family-centred approaches to reintegration and maintaining family bonds: The voices of people most affected by decisions which impact them need to be heard at local and national levels. This could include establishing platforms and mechanisms which allow them to participate in decision-making forums and have their voices heard. Many people with lived experience of the criminal justice system develop a set of capabilities that enable them to advance transformative change, both in the lives of people affected by imprisonment and convictions and in the lives of those who make decisions which affect them.

Outcome 3: Government and state bodies are held accountable for reducing the harm of imprisonment to families: the focus is on ensuring duty bearers acknowledge the need for change and act accordingly. We are interested in improved policies, legislation and change to current practice which results in relevant agencies better meeting the needs of the whole family.

Grant Programme Criteria

SSGT **does not fund service provision** but can fund initiatives which add value to existing services through embedding family-centred approaches. We welcome initiatives which complement the service delivery of an organisation, for example by supporting participants with advocacy initiatives which contribute to the specified outcomes. The initiative might also build on service provision outputs to develop initiatives which contribute to the programme outcomes. The initiatives should be rooted in the current context with the focus on systems change and a learning approach embedded from the start. The organisation needs to be clear how the work contributes to, and be engaged in, advocacy for policy and systems change.

Organisations seeking grants should design approaches which: ensure the voice of those most affected are included in the design and delivery of the outcomes; have a focus on building relationships that will last beyond the funded work; take account of gender and other differences in the impact of, and the different pathways in and out of imprisonment and convictions. These principles incorporate SSGT’s core values of respect & solidarity; accountability & transparency; integrity and partnership with grantees and their communities.

This is a multiannual grant programme (up to 3 years) and the maximum grant available is approx. €20,000 per annum but most grants will be less than that. Some one-off grants are available for projects which add value to the grant programme activities and contribute to the outcomes. The funded organisations are required to participate in a Learning Network over the three years, with twice-yearly meetings in Dublin. The Learning Network meetings will form part of SSGT’s learning and evaluation framework.

We have a two-step application process and the first stage is an expression of interest in which the group outlines what it wants to do and broad costings. If the expression of interest is accepted, a more detailed Step 2 application is filled out and assessment may involve meeting with the applicant. Organisations invited to Step 2 are not guaranteed a grant and there is likely to be more applications than funds available.

Grant Programme Process

- Applications will be accepted from charities working across the island of Ireland. We sometimes accept applications from groups that are not-for-profit but are not charities. Please contact us in advance to discuss this if your group is not a registered charity.
- Grants can be for up to three years and the maximum grant available is approx. €20,000.
- Grantees are expected to have a good understanding of the context in which SSGT has developed these outcomes and have the capacity to contribute to systems change.
- This fund is not suitable for groups wishing to develop new services or continue current ones. However it can build on current work.
- SSGT places emphasis on learning from its grants and the programme has proportionate monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms built into its work.
- It is mandatory that the group has a safeguarding policy and process in place proportionate and appropriate to the context of its work.
- SSGT operates an online grants system and the link to start the application process is [here](#).
- Questions on the application form are below – you might find it helpful to review these before you start the process. A budget has to be uploaded. You can use your own budget template or we provide a guide.
- The deadline for receipt of applications is **Thursday 15th Sept 2022.**

If you are having difficulties with the online process, please contact Karen Ryan at: 085 755 2009. Karen works Mon to Thurs mornings.

The online process allows you to save and resume. We strongly recommend you use this function so information is not lost.

You will be requested to submit the form and an acknowledgement will be issued.

**Family Matters Grant Programme Deadline:
Thurs 15th September 2022 – [Apply here](#)**

**St Stephen's Green Trust, Guinness Enterprise Centre, Taylors Lane, Dublin 8,
Tel: +353 (0)85 755 2009; Email: info@ssgt.ie; Website: www.ssgt.ie**

THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FORM – IT IS FOR GUIDANCE

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE ONLINE FORM AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Questions marked with an asterix (*) on the online form have to be answered

PART 1: ORGANISATION DETAILS

Organisation Name

Are you a registered charity

Charity Number

Website/Social Media

Address line 1

Address line 2

City

County

Postcode

Is this a collaborative proposal

(If yes) Name of other partners

Please describe the role of each partner in the project

Contact Details

First name

Last name

Role at organisation

Email

Telephone

Your Organisation

Outline the main activities of your group, including type and level of activity

Are you currently or have you previously been involved in working towards the outcomes identified for this programme?

Please tell us about the activities involved and describe the progress made towards the outcomes. How you will know you were successful, what information you gathered and how it was used.

PART 2: PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name

What do you want to do with the funding applied for?

Describe the main grant activities and timeframe. Are they part of a wider project or programme – if so set out how this grant will add value to current activities

What will be the result of these activities?

Focus on outputs rather than longer term impact

What do you expect to happen in the medium term as a result of these activities and outputs and how will you know you have been successful?

How do you think this work contributes to the outcomes for this programme as set out in our guidelines?

What are the risks associated with the work and how do you expect to address them?

Budget

In which currency are you requesting funding? € or £

What is the total cost? Amount requested from SSGT?

Please attach an estimate of the total costs (not just the element you are seeking from SSGT). You can download our budget template [here](#)

You can download and save the SSGT budget template, fill it in and upload or you can upload your own budget if that is preferable.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

No other documents should be sent at this time but if your application goes to Step 2 we will require a copy of your most recent Annual Report and Financial Statements. We will also have questions on your Safeguarding policy and practice.

Is there any additional information you would like to include for which you have not had an opportunity above?

