

Supporting Vulnerable Women and Families in the International Protection Process Guidelines for Strand 2 Grant Applicants 2023

This is a guiding document outlining the criteria and sample application questions for the grant programme. SSGT grant applications are accepted through an online process only and links to the online application forms are included in this document.

Background

As part of SSGT's strategic goal to support people in the international protection (IP) process to become full members of Irish society through the creation of a more humane asylum system, we are launching a new funding programme in 2023 that targets the situation for the most vulnerable women and families in the IP process.

The focus of the programme will be on lone parents, families with children who have additional needs, women and children who have survived abuse, victims of sex trafficking and families with deportation orders who do not have access to adequate financial or social supports. Due to the complexity of their experiences, the needs of these families are greater and more nuanced than many other IP applicants, exposing them to greater risk of exploitation and of falling between the gaps when it comes to accessing the services and supports needed to ensure that their experience of the IP system is humane and affords them every opportunity to become full members of Irish society.

The aim will be to contribute to the systems change needed for the needs of vulnerable families to be taken into account in the international protection process.

The programme will include two funding strands and will support work in Ireland and in Northern Ireland. In **Strand 1**, one-year grants of between €5,000 (£4,500) and €8,000 (£7,500) will be offered to local groups working to improve the living conditions and pathways to support for the target beneficiaries. **Strand 2** will welcome applications for up to €20,000 (£17,500) per annum for up to three years from groups working strategically to improve the situation of vulnerable women and families in the long-term.

Details of Strand 2, including guiding application questions are provided below. If you are part of group who is currently working to improve conditions and access to supports for vulnerable women and families in the international protection system and have any queries about the programme or its application process, please contact our Grants and Development Manager Sara Stokes at sara@ssgt.ie.

Timeline for Strand 2	
Opens for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)	16 February 2023
Deadline for receipt of all Eois	16 March 2023
Follow up from SSGT in relation to Eois	Week of 20 March 2023
Decisions communicated to all applicants	Late April 2023
Funded work can begin	May 2023
Annual outcome report(s) due	In April of each funded year ¹
Participation in Learning Network meetings	An initial meeting of grantees will take place in June 2023. These peer meetings will then take place at 6-month intervals throughout the lifecycle of the grant

Guidelines for Strand 2

In Strand 2, a small number of larger grants (up to €20,000/ €17,500 per annum) will be offered on a multi-annual basis for up to three years. Applications to this Strand are invited from local, national and specialist organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland who are working to improve the long-term outcomes for vulnerable women and families in the IP process, including at least one of the following cohorts: lone parents, families with children who have additional needs, women and children who have survived abuse, victims of sex trafficking and families with deportation orders.

The intended outcomes for the programme are as follows:

- **Outcome 1:** Contribute to the development of better pathways for support to vulnerable women and families in the International Protection Process. This outcome seeks both an increase in supports available, and a better understanding of the situation of vulnerable women and families by state and voluntary bodies
- **Outcome 2:** Strengthen the voice of vulnerable women and families in decisions which affect them, at local and national decision-making structures and processes
- **Outcome 3:** Sustainable funding streams are available at a local level to support the integration of vulnerable families and children into their local communities

Work should include elements of strategic advocacy and/or should aim to develop sustainable mechanisms for activities that will ultimately be continued by state bodies, and which will contribute to the creation of a more humane asylum process for the target beneficiaries. The inclusion of people with direct experience of the IP process in the design and delivery of activities is essential.

Applications in Strand 2 will be made via a two-step process, the first of which involves an online Expression of Interest form. Applications that successfully make it to the second step will be invited to submit further details of the proposed work and will be asked for additional supporting documentation. Grants will be offered on a multi-annual basis as part of a wider programmatic approach. Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MEL), along with regular reporting on spend,

¹ For multi-annual grants, payments for year 2 and year 3 (where relevant) will only be issued following submission of satisfactory reporting on outcomes in the previous year(s) and plans for the following year.

activities, progress and outcomes, will also include mandatory participation in a peer Learning Network involving two meetings per year for the duration of the grant.

Who can apply?

SSGT ordinarily funds registered charities but organisations that are not-for-profit may apply where they have a demonstrable track record of working with vulnerable women and families in the International Protection process including at least one of the following cohorts: lone parents, families with children who have additional needs, women and children who have survived abuse, victims of sex trafficking and families with deportation orders.

Successful applications will include strategic objectives that work towards systems-change that will have long-term beneficial outcomes for these individuals and families. Priority will be given to applications that can demonstrate the long-term impact the work will have on improving the lives of vulnerable women and families in the IP system and work that includes the voices of those most affected in the design and implementation stages.

Specialist organisations e.g., groups that support children with additional needs or who work with victims of abuse are invited to apply where the proposed work directly benefits and improves conditions for vulnerable women and families in the IP process.

What we will not fund:

We are unable to fund capital costs; general requests for funding; retrospective funding and individuals. We generally only fund registered charities but may consider other not-for-profit organisations. Applications for ongoing service provision are not eligible for funding in this Strand, nor are applications that are primarily focussed on beneficiaries other than the groups of vulnerable women and families listed in the criteria.

Sample Application Questions for Strand 2

<p>THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FORM – IT IS FOR GUIDANCE APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE ONLINE FORM AVAILABLE HERE</p>
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. If your organisation is involved in working with vulnerable women and families in the International Protection process, please give details
Are you currently or have you previously been involved in working with vulnerable women and families in the IP process? Please tell us about the activities involved and describe the progress made towards the outcomes. Please give details of how you knew the work was a success, 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 or challenges 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). <i>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.</i>
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?

