

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

In the first quarter of 2024 SSGT gathered a significant amount of data in relation to the current landscape surrounding International Protection in Ireland, the stakeholders involved, and the challenges being experienced 'on the ground'. This data was collected through desk research, official International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) statistics, conversations and meetings with migrant support organisations and through the testimony given in the reports received from 42 beneficiaries of our Christmas Voucher Fund¹. The resulting '[Current Context](#)' paper highlighted four key challenge areas for people in international protection and the groups that support them. These were: the rise of the far right and growth of anti-migrant sentiment countrywide; the current accommodation crisis; a lack of practical supports such as language classes, childcare and transport that lead to barriers to integration; and the insufficient resourcing of support organisations to cope with increased demand.

What was also highlighted in SSGT's consultation with support organisations is the fact that the chaotic environment in which they are currently operating has resulted in a prolonged period of firefighting that has left groups struggling to meet the immediate demands of everyday casework. This has led to a situation where they are increasingly concerned about the issues their clients are facing but have no space, time or resources for exploration, creative/ imaginative thought, or collaboration around driving strategic advocacy or policy change.

With that in mind, SSGT is making funding available for organisations with a track-record of advocacy work in relation to migrant issues. Funding is intended to enable groups to make space and time amidst the firefighting for strategic thinking, with a view to addressing one or more of the issues outlined in this paper through strategic advocacy work.

The programme will include three complementary funding strands; Strand One will focus on small once-off grants to support groups to take time out for imaginative and innovative thinking; Strand Two will offer larger grants on a once-off or multi-annual basis to build on existing data and knowledge and/ or as a stimulus for defined pieces of strategic advocacy and; Strand Three will make multi-annual funding available for networks or coalitions to resource and support their systems change agenda.

Detailed criteria, including guiding application questions, are provided below. If you are part of group that is currently working to strategically improve the situation for people in the international protection system and have any queries about the programme or its application process, please contact our team at info@sstg.ie.

¹ In December 2023 SSGT were approached by Lakeside to distribute Christmas vouchers to all IPA children in 135 family accommodation centres around Ireland, via 44 local support groups

Timeline for Applications	
Opens for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)	08 July 2024
Deadline for receipt of all Eois	12 August 2024
Shortlisted applicants invited to submit full application	End August 2024
Decisions communicated to all applicants	September 2024
Funded work can begin	October 2024
Annual outcome report(s) due	October 2025
Participation in Learning Network meetings	An initial meeting of grantees will take place in March 2025. For one-off grants, there will be a final meeting in October 2025. For multi-annual grantees, these peer meetings will then take place at 6-month intervals throughout the lifecycle of the grant

Guidelines for Applicants

The aim of this grant programme is to support organisations who are leading on policy change related to the improving the situation for people in the International Protection (IP) process and to enable those organisations to make space and time to drive and develop strategies for issues of importance. The focus of funded work will be on systems change and supporting collaboration and the capacity of grantees to focus on their change-making agendas.

The intended outcomes for the programme include:

- **Outcome 1:** Support change-making work that aims to improve conditions for people living in direct provision accommodation (e.g., better standards/ management/ living conditions/ exit strategies that are supported by the State for people with status to transition away from direct provision)
- **Outcome 2:** Contribute to work that has a strategic and long-term impact in the context of a growing and increasingly aggressive anti-migrant movement
- **Outcome 3:** Contribute to advocacy and campaigning that drives the recommendations of the [White Paper on Ending Direct Provision](#)
- **Outcome 4:** Support groups working strategically on migrant issues to develop and enhance their advocacy capacity through the provision of additional resources and access to networks
- **Outcome 5:** Strengthen the voice of people in International Protection in decisions which affect them, in the context of national decision-making structures and processes

Work should focus on strategic advocacy which will contribute to the creation of a more humane asylum process. The inclusion of people with direct experience of the IP process in the design and delivery of activities is essential. Groups with a regional remit may apply where they are working strategically on policy issues that impact people in IP nationally.

The programme will include three complementary funding strands and will support work in Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

Strand One: Innovation and Imagination The first strand will offer one-off small grants of up to €3,000 or £2,500 for costs associated with (a) taking time for strategic, innovative, and imaginative thinking and/or (b)

with working collaboratively with internal or external stakeholders to pull together the data and observations collected through existing work to develop advocacy strategies around key issues. Funding can be used for (but is not limited to) costs associated with facilitators, experts or consultants to work on issues, hiring meeting spaces and facilitating collaboration with other colleagues in the sector.

Applications to this strand can be made via a one-step online form. Reporting for these small grants will be proportionate, with a short, written report being expected at the end of the process. As part of our Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MEL), we will offer grantees the opportunity to engage in Learning Network events with peers working towards similar outcomes. You can find a link to the online Application Form [here](#).

Strand Two: Development Strand For the second strand, we welcome applications for up to €10,000 /£8,500 from groups working strategically to improve the situation for people in IP in the long-term. This funding can be used to build on existing data and knowledge and/ or as a stimulus for defined pieces of strategic advocacy that have been sidelined due to demand on services. These grants are intended as one-off, one-year funding but, depending on the scale of the work, SSGT may consider multi-annual applications to this strand for up to three years.

Strand Three: Collaborative Strand Funding under this strand is intended to support coalitions and networks for new collaborative work around key policy issues. Grants of up to €20,000 /£17,000 per annum will be made available on a multi-annual basis for up to three years and can be used to resource and build the capacity of new or existing coalitions that are focussed on systems change to improve the situation for people in IP. Applicants to this strand should give some thought in advance to what will happen to the group and its work after funding ends.

Applications to the **Development** and **Collaborative** Strands will be made via a two-step process, the first of which involves an online Expression of Interest form. Applications that are successfully shortlisted will be invited to submit further details of the proposed work and will be asked for additional supporting documentation. Grants will be offered as part of a wider programmatic approach. As part of our Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MEL), we will offer grantees the opportunity to engage in Learning Network events with peers working towards similar outcomes. These peer-led events will take place twice per year for the duration of the grant. You can find a link to the online Expression of Interest Form [here](#).

The inclusion of people with experience of the IP system in the work is a priority for SSGT. We acknowledge that there are often costs associated with this level of participation and are open to the inclusion of these costs in proposed budgets.

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 strategically to improve the situation for people in the International Protection process. Applicant groups which are not charities will be asked to explain their reasoning and justification for not registering.

Successful applications will include strategic objectives that work towards systems-change that will have long-term beneficial outcomes for people in IP. Priority will be given to applications that can demonstrate the long-

term impact the work will have on improving the lives of people in the IP system and work that includes the voices of those most affected in the design and implementation stages.

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 under this programme.

Sample Application Questions for Expressions of Interest

<p>THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FORM – IT IS FOR GUIDANCE APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE RELEVANT APPLICATION LINK (ABOVE) Questions marked with an (*) on the online form must be answered</p>
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 supporting people in the International Protection process, please give details
Are you currently or have you previously been involved in strategic policy and advocacy to improve the situation for people 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 because 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 it or upload your own budget if preferable.</i>
SUPPORTING INFORMATION No other documents should be sent now, but if your Expression of Interest is shortlisted, 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 the opportunity above?

Sample Multi-Annual Budget Template

You can use this template or upload your own. Set out the estimated total costs of the proposed activities, including the amounts funded by other sources.

This budget is for multi-annual budget requests – if you are requesting a grant for 2 or 3 years, please indicate below the total and the request to SSGT for each year

	Year:	Year:	Year:	TOTAL
Budget Detail	€/£	€/£	€/£	€/£
TOTALS: Please total all columns				
Total Project Cost				
Amount (if applicable) from other funding sources:				
Amount requested from SSGT This should not exceed the grant limits set out in this guidance document for each Strand				

The deadline for submission of applications is Friday 12 August 2024 at 16.30. If you have any queries, please contact our team at info@ssgt.ie