

ASSETS RECOVERY COMMUNITY SCHEME (ARCS)

ARCS Scheme 2022/23 (Oct-Mar) and 2023/24

Guidance Notes

ARCS - Proceeds from crime directed into community projects to prevent crime or reduce the fear of crime for the benefit of



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The ARCS programme budget for this Scheme is estimated to be in the region of £900k – approximately £300k in 2022/23 and approximately £600k in 2023/24.

The maximum total funding available is £10k (in 2022/23) and £25k (in 2023/24) per application.

Please be aware that it is unlikely that all applications will be successful. Applicants should not therefore make any commitment, financial or other, until the decision of the ARCS funding panel is determined and notified to applicants.

The funding is available for projects running between October 2022 and March 2024 or periods in between.

Claims for expenditure are only eligible from the date of a letter of offer from the Department up to the 31st March 2024 or sooner depending on the project.

The decision of the ARCS funding panel is final and there is no appeals process.

1. The application form

Please:

- complete the form using typescript if possible (or black ink);
- note that incomplete forms will be returned / rejected;
- be aware that the information provided on this form may be made available to other Departments/Agencies for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime;
- note that funding awarded will be recorded on the Government Funding Database;
- submit your form by email via OCB.enquiries@justice-ni.gov.uk **by 5pm on Thursday 1st September 2022** (if your application form is in hard copy format please contact the ARCS Programme Team in the Department of Justice on 028 90520759 to make arrangements for receipt).

2. Who can apply for funding?

- Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations with a Management Board or appropriate governance structure
- Registered Charities
- Statutory organisations seeking to deliver projects in community settings

3. Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- how the project meets the ARCS essential criteria and, where possible, the desirable criteria;
- that appropriate management, governance and financial policies and procedures are in place, including safeguarding policies where relevant, and that these policies etc. are regularly reviewed and complied with and provided to the Department on request;
- the assessed need for funding from ARCS;
- that there is no funding from another source covering the same proposal;
- the added value/benefits that the project will deliver;
- that the funding will be utilised and benefits/activities delivered within the period of the application to the Scheme.
- Provide clear timelines for funding requirements for the period up to 31 March 2023 and if applying for longer term funding up to 31 March 2024.

The application asks: 'How does the proposal meet the funding criteria'?

The **essential** criteria for ARCS funding is: “**to prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime**”.

ARCS funding should **also** benefit **victims**, or **communities** or **the environment** or any combination of these three priority categories.

The **desirable** criteria for ARCS funding is:

- Alignment with the draft Programme for Government outcome: “Everyone feels safe – we all respect the law and each other”
- Alignment with the Northern Ireland Organised Crime Strategy 2021 – 2024

DRAFT Programme for Government 2021 -

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/newnigov/pfg-draft-outcomes-framework-consultation.pdf>

Northern Ireland Organised Crime Strategy -

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/organised-crime-strategy>

The 2021-2024 Strategy commits the use of ARCS funding to:

- support programmes that tackle crime or reduce the fear of crime;
- support the creation of safe and resilient communities;
- send a message that crime does not pay;
- seek to increase public confidence in the justice system;
- reduce reoffending;
- divert vulnerable individuals away from engagement in criminal behaviour.

4. The following applications will not be eligible for funding:

- Applications from individuals or private sector businesses;
- Applications for capital funding costs; e.g. high value items (vehicles, bicycles, large gym equipment, CCTV systems, smart phones, tablets, computers, fixed assets) and infrastructure/building schemes, such as sheds or major building or renovation works will **not** be possible. Lower value items, for example, equipment may be considered.

- Applications for repeat or regular events and existing activities or repeat funding of projects previously funded by ARCS *except* where the applicant provides evidence of ongoing need or extenuating circumstances that the panel may wish to consider;
- Applications for salaries, general administration or core annual running costs i.e. rent, insurance, utility charges, *unless they are integral to the proposal itself and appropriately apportioned;*
- Applications for Statutory Service Delivery – which should normally be undertaken within the remit of a statutory service delivery organisation;
- Applications for schemes that are already funded or delivered through another service provider

5. Assessment of applications

Proposals will be assessed by an ARCS panel. In addition to the indicators at Section 4 above the ARCS panel will assess applications against:

- evidence of need for the proposal in addressing specific issues and problems;
- evidence of meeting the ARCS *essential* criteria;
- evidence of intended benefit for victims, community and/or the environment;
- evidence of meeting the ARCS *desirable* criteria;
- value for money.

It is the applicant's responsibility to clearly demonstrate how their proposal satisfies the above criteria through the information provided in the application form.

6. Deadline for applications

Applications must be submitted by **5pm on Thursday 1st September 2022.**

7. Can I contact anyone if I have questions about the Scheme or the application form?

Queries can be directed to the ARCS Programme Team in the Department of Justice on Tel 028 90520759 or via the email: OCB.enquiries@justice-ni.gov.uk

8. Publicity

A full list of the projects awarded funding under this ARCS Scheme will be published by the Department of Justice on its website.

9. The ARCS budget and promoting the Scheme

The ARCS budget is generated from payments made against confiscation orders following a criminal conviction. Confiscation cases are brought forward by partner agencies of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF).

Literature or publicity material for any project that receives ARCS funding should refer to the funding being received from the Department of Justice under the Assets Recovery Community Scheme or ARCS. A Department of Justice logo or an OCTF logo will be provided to all successful projects.

Completing the Outline Implementation Plan at Appendix 1 of the Application Form

Projects that secure funding will be asked to report regularly and *proportionately*, on progress/success, providing an overview of what has been achieved, who has benefitted, and how?

When completing Appendix 1 of the Application Form it may be helpful to think in terms of:

- “How much will we do?”
- “Who will benefit as a result?”