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## **Community Sport Facilities Fund Webinar**

Formerly, Sports Capital Programme

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# Agenda

Being Grant Ready

2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund  
(CSFF) Background

Community Sport Facilities Fund  
Application Process

Q&A?

# Being Grant Ready

# Being Grant Ready – Be Methodical

Never try to make a project fit a funding scheme & design a project around funding streams

- The key points all funding streams need address
  - What is the need???
  - Who are the users?
  - What's the impact?
  - Is there any duplication or complementarity in the project
- Address the objectives and adhere to the scoring matrix... completing the form is the last stage of the process



# Being Grant Ready for CSFF – tell the story!

1. Who are the people that will benefit from this project?  
- females, males, youths, adults, masters/vets, social tennis, recreational vs competitive members
2. What would you like to fund? Ambition... be ambitious and specific
3. Why should you get this over another application?... What is your USP

Once you answer these then think about....

- I. Where is the project
- II. How much will your ambition cost? How much funding would you like to get from the Community Sport Facilities Fund? How will you match this?
- III. When will you complete the work?... Will not be in 2026

# Being Grant Ready - Project Plan – KISS!

- Capital or Equipment grant?
- Match funding available?
- Title Deeds or lease?
- Fundraising activities?
- Who will manage the delivery?
- When will the project be delivered?
- What is the impact and its measurement? – geographical and demographics
- Lead Applicant
- Procurement Guidelines



# Background to Community Sport Facilities Fund

# Community Sport Facilities Fund

The Community Sport Facilities Fund is the primary vehicle for Government support for the development of sports and physical recreation facilities and the purchase of non-personal sports equipment throughout the country.

- The Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF), formerly the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, has allocated over €1.4 billion to almost 19,000 projects since 1998.
- The programme prioritises participation, accessibility, and sustainability, with **targets** including 60% national participation in sport by 2027.



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt  
Department of Culture,  
Communications and Sport



# Community Sport Facilities Fund

The CSFF provides grants to assist in the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment.

The Programme's objectives are to:

- ..... to develop high quality, accessible, safe, well-designed, sustainable facilities in appropriate locations and to provide appropriate equipment to help maximise participation in sport and physical recreation
- Prioritise the needs of **disadvantaged areas and groups** (such as people with disabilities) in the provision of sports facilities
- Increase **female participation** in sport
- Encourage the **sharing of sports facilities**... do you have a bigger impact in your area



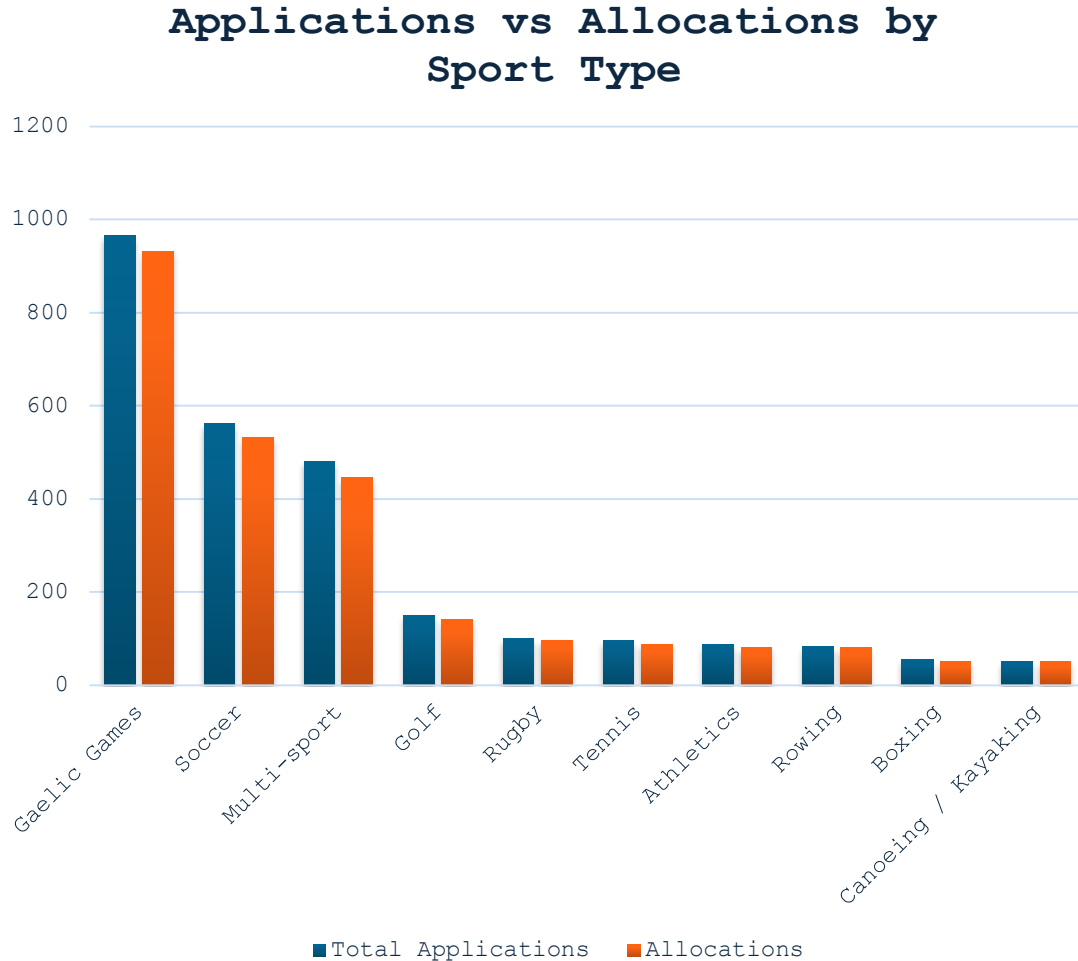
# Amounts available?

- Maintenance Equipment: €40,000
- Capital with no title/less 15 years: €50,000
- Equipment: €70,000 (except for NGBs)
- Capital with title (Local): €200,000
- National/Regional: €500,000

## What makes a Regional Application?

- National centres of excellence for one or more sport
- County and/or regional centres of excellence
- Local Authority projects seeking between €200,000 and €500,000 (including improvements to swimming pools)
- Applications of a municipal character, not involving a local authority, but involving more than one club / organisation / school, ideally representing a minimum of two sports, which have come together under the one application.
- Sports facilities at 3 rd Level Colleges (must be made jointly with a local club

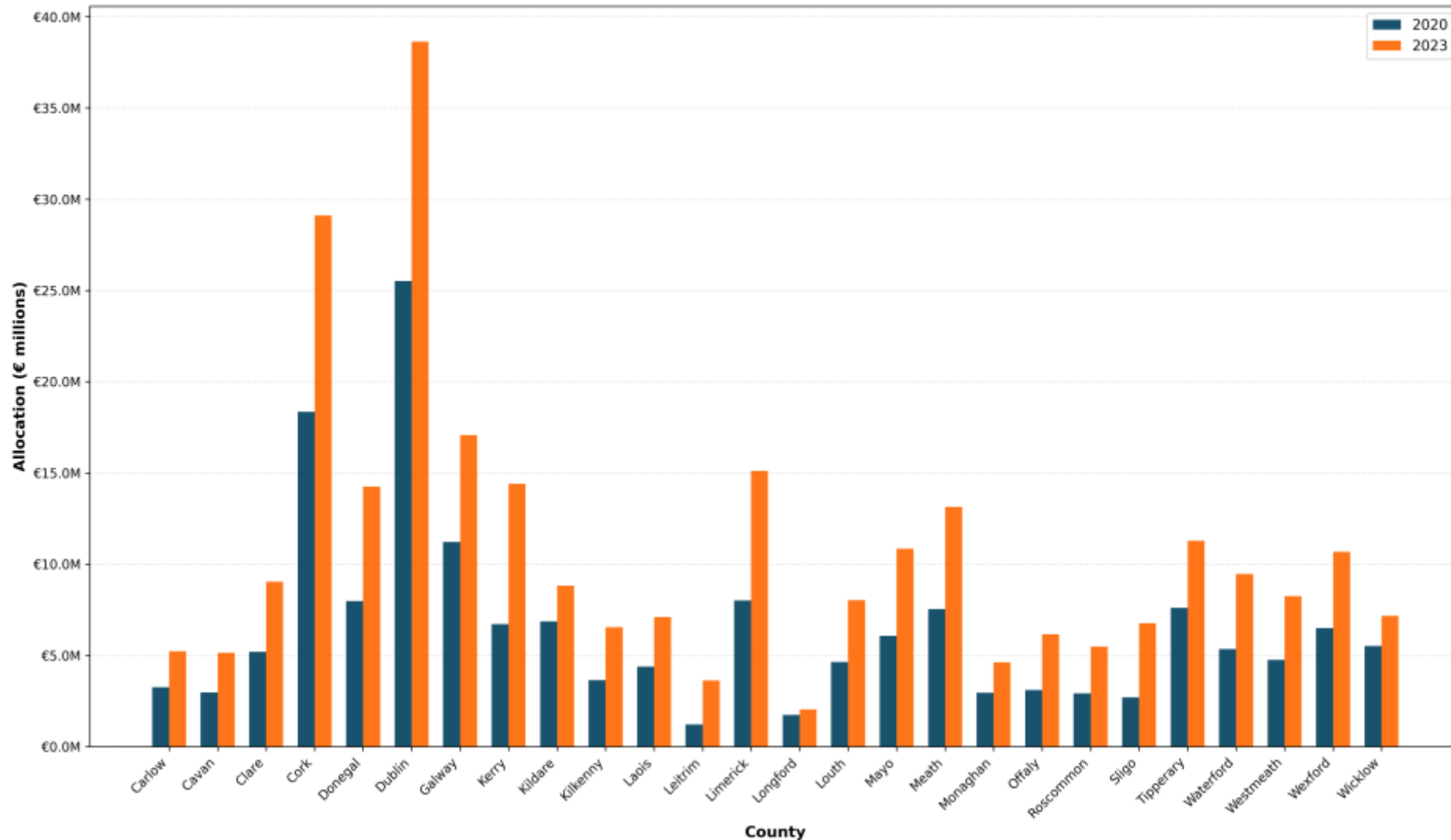
# Not in, you can't win!



- In 2023, over €277 million was allocated to 3,048 sporting projects under CSFF.
- 94.73% success rate for all applications.
- 78.64% allocation rate of funds requested.
- Gaelic Games received the highest funding, accounting for €107 million in 2023.
- The 2023 local applications were assessed using the Pobal Deprivation Index as the primary calculation factor, thus ensuring disadvantaged areas were prioritised.

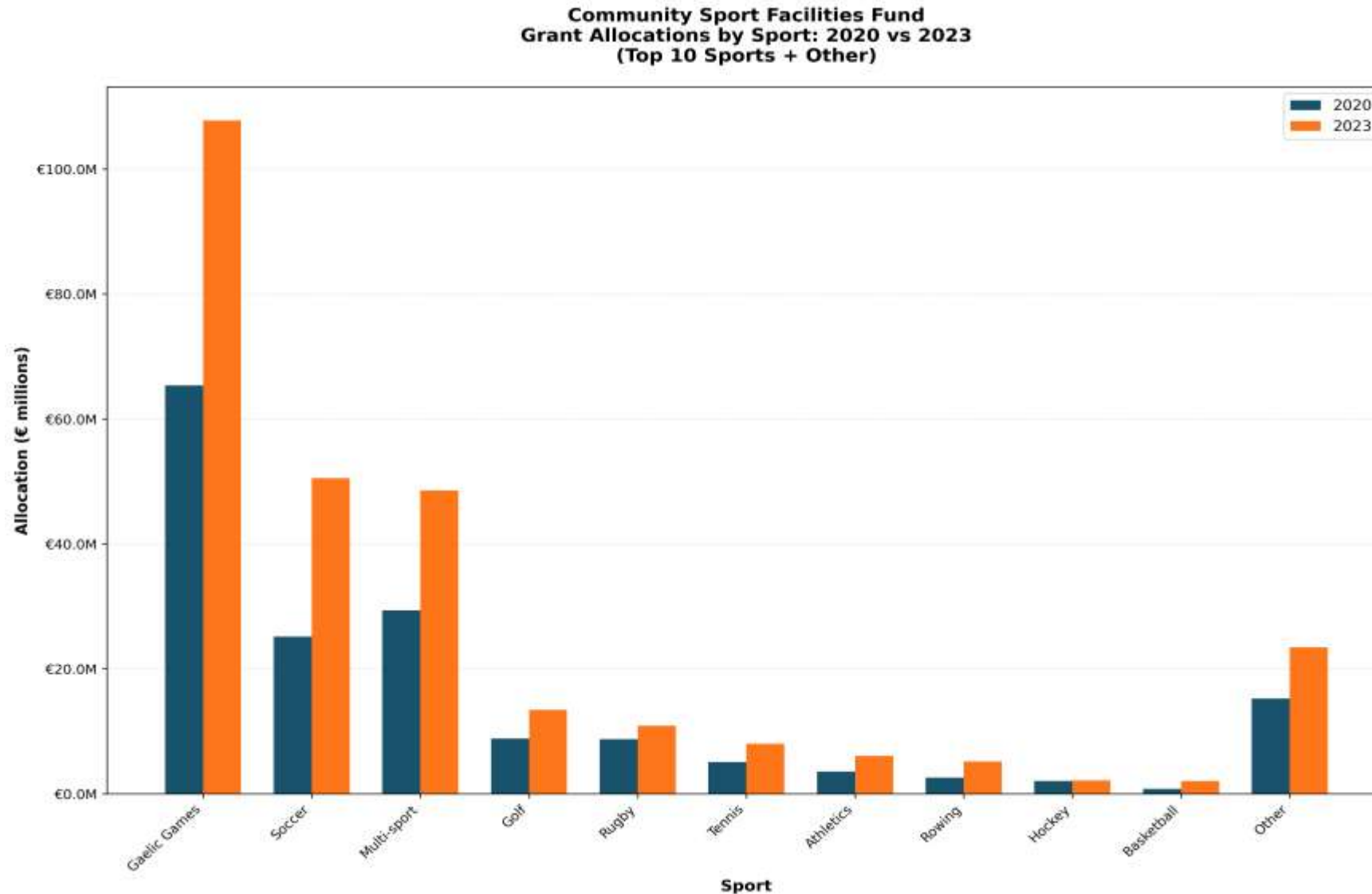
# Community Sport Facilities Fund 2023 Allocations (County)

Community Sport Facilities Fund  
Grant Allocations by County: 2020 vs 2023



- Urban centres will always get more as there is a per capita ratio allowed; Dublin, Cork, Galway

# Community Sport Facilities Fund 2023 Allocations (Top 10 Sports)



- Significant increase in investment from 2020 to 2023

# Application Process

# OSCAR – Not a person, but can act like one!

OSCAR - Online Sports Capital Register

English

Points to Note....

Name and Contact details of Primary User is vital!!!

Schools must be partnered with a sports club who are registered on OSCAR

2into3

OSCAR - Online Sports Capital Register

Sports Capital Programme

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media  
New Road  
Kilarney  
Co. Kerry  
A list of officers dealing with each county is available [here](#)

[Knowledge Base](#) [Login](#) [Register](#)

Welcome to the Sports Capital Programme Portal

**NOTICE:**

On foot of a record level of funding and of grantees under the most recent 2023 round of the Community Sport Facilities Fund, the Sports Capital Programme is processing a significant volume of applications for formal approval and payments. This is impacting on the turnaround of such applications but be assured that all applications are being systematically processed. Thank you for your patience.

**LATEST POSITION:**

The latest round (2023) of the Community Sport Facilities Fund (formerly Sports Capital and Equipment Programme) closed for applications on Friday, 8th September 2023. A list of all provisional allocations is available at [2023 grants](#).

The Community Sport Facilities Fund (formerly Sports Capital and Equipment Programme) is operated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. It provides grants to assist in the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment.

In line with previous rounds of the programme, a review of the current funding round will be undertaken and that review will inform the timing of the next round of the Community Sport Facilities Fund. However, we would anticipate that the next round should be announced in 2026.

This portal is used to apply for funding and manage the drawdown of grants. **Please avoid using the firefox browser.**

**Useful Links:**

1. A guide to registration is available. **ORGANISATIONS ONLY NEED TO REGISTER ONCE FOR ALL ROUNDS OF THE PROGRAMME**
2. Frequently Asked Questions about the Programme
3. The 2023 Guide to making an application
4. A video guide to making an application
5. The 2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund Scoring System and Assessment Procedures
6. The Community Sport Facilities Fund Guide to Accessible Gym Equipment. For more information, Cara - Sport Inclusion Ireland have created resource [Factsheets](#) (link is external) on how to make your sports facilities, equipment and activities more accessible to people with disabilities (this link is to an external website and the information and views are not those of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media).
7. A series of guides on how to get your grant paid

[Department's Data Protection Policy](#)  
[Freedom of Information Policy](#)

# OSCAR – Once You Are In

The screenshot displays the OSCAR (Online Sports Capital Register) dashboard. The header includes the title "OSCAR - Online Sports Capital Register", the Irish Government logo, and the "Tionscatal Eireann Project Ireland 2040" logo. A language dropdown menu is set to "English".

The dashboard features a sidebar with navigation options: Log Out, Dashboard, Organisation Details, Application, Schemes, Drafts, Documents, Payments, Knowledge Base, and Active Projects.

The main content area, titled "Dashboard", contains a grid of buttons for various actions:

- APPLY FOR A GRANT (Grey button)
- APPLY FOR FORMAL APPROVAL FOR EXISTING GRANT (Grey button)
- APPLY FOR PAYMENT ON EXISTING GRANT (Orange button)
- EDIT/SUBMIT DRAFT APPLICATION (Orange button)
- VIEW PAST GRANTS AND APPLICATIONS (Green button)
- VIEW ALL PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS (Pink button)

Below the top row of buttons, there are three more buttons: VIEW MY DRAFTS (Green), SEND FOR REVIEW (Pink), and VIEW ORGANISATION CONTACT DETAILS (Green). Three blue arrows, numbered 1, 2, and 3, point upwards from the bottom of the screen to the "APPLY FOR A GRANT", "APPLY FOR FORMAL APPROVAL FOR EXISTING GRANT", and "APPLY FOR PAYMENT ON EXISTING GRANT" buttons respectively.

At the bottom of the page, the footer text reads: "OSCAR - Online Sports Capital Register © 2015 v1.0.00".



# Community Sport Facilities Fund - Grading Criteria 2023

Scoring Criteria	Description	Max weighted Score Available
1	Likelihood of increasing participation and/or improving performance	78
2	Sharing of facilities	15
3	Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area	35
4	Technical merits of the project / Sustainability	24
5	Level of Own Funding by Deprivation Index	6
6	Level of Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years	26
7	Evidence of environmental initiatives & climate adaptation	Unknown
8	Population growth and level of existing facilities	Unknown

70 % of score –  
The Who and  
The Why?

30 % of  
score



**2into3**

(184 in

# Eligible & Ineligible Funding

## Sports Capital Programme (2023)

- Natural grass sports pitches, tracks and courts
- Floodlighting
- Artificial sports pitches, tracks, courts and multi-use games areas
- Security fencing, ball stop netting and goal posts
- Hurling walls / handball alleys
- Building or refurbishment of dressing rooms, showers and toilets
- Building or refurbishment of sports halls and gyms
- Modifications to sports facilities - access
- Non-personal sports equipment
- Any other capital projects sporting in nature and that will increase participation/improve performance

## Sports Capital Programme (2023)

- Private and/or commercial operations
- Operational costs
- Viewing stands - spectator
- Car parks, roads or landscaping - spectator
- Children's Playgrounds
- Bars, kitchens, accommodation, offices or others that have little/no sporting content
- Projects (or elements) where work has already commenced or where contracts have already been signed
- Building or renovating of swimming pools
- Routine maintenance
- Applications from schools, ETBs and 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges that are not made jointly with at least one sports club
- The repayment of loans
- The purchase of land or buildings

# Criterion 1 Likelihood of increasing participation and/or improving performance (weighting 3)

Score	Comment
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	A. Overall Impact on Participation / overall quality of application ( out of 7)
5	B. Project will benefit people from minority groups, Accessibility Policy ( out of 5)
6	
7	C. Application clearly demonstrates how persons with disability will benefit from the proposal ( out of 5)
8	
9	D. Application clearly demonstrates how the proposal will specifically improve female participation (out of 5)
10	
11	E. Level of membership fees ( out of 1)
12	F. Level of facilities in club/area – area witnessing <b>increased local population</b> ( out of 3)
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	Max. marks available under this criteria (26 x 3 = 78) : <b>42.4%</b> of total marks
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	

- The Who, What, Where and Why!
- Describe current facilities and programmes and how this investment will enhance and/or increase level of participation - know your members
- Social media to mirror
  - 300 for who
  - 300 for the why
  - 200 for the what

## Criterion 2 Sharing of facilities (weighting 5)

Score	Comment
0	Sharing mentioned in application but no licence agreement provided / licence agreement provided does not meet requirements of the SCEP (see appendix 3 of guide to making an application).
1	Valid Licence agreement(s) provided which shows sharing with at least 1 other group
2	Valid Licence agreement(s) provided which shows sharing with at least 2 other group
3	Valid Licence agreement(s) provided which shows sharing with at least 3 other groups – or licence agreement(s) with specified total of at least 20 hours
Max. marks available under this criterion (3 x 5 = 15) : <b>8.2% of</b> total marks	

- Though not essential, extra marks are awarded for sharing facilities.
- Schools – bargain hard!
- Any user groups other than your sport can facilitate a valid licence agreement. E.g. Yoga/Pilates
- Maximum of 3.

## Criterion 3 Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area or in the area served or project focused on people with disabilities (weighting 7)

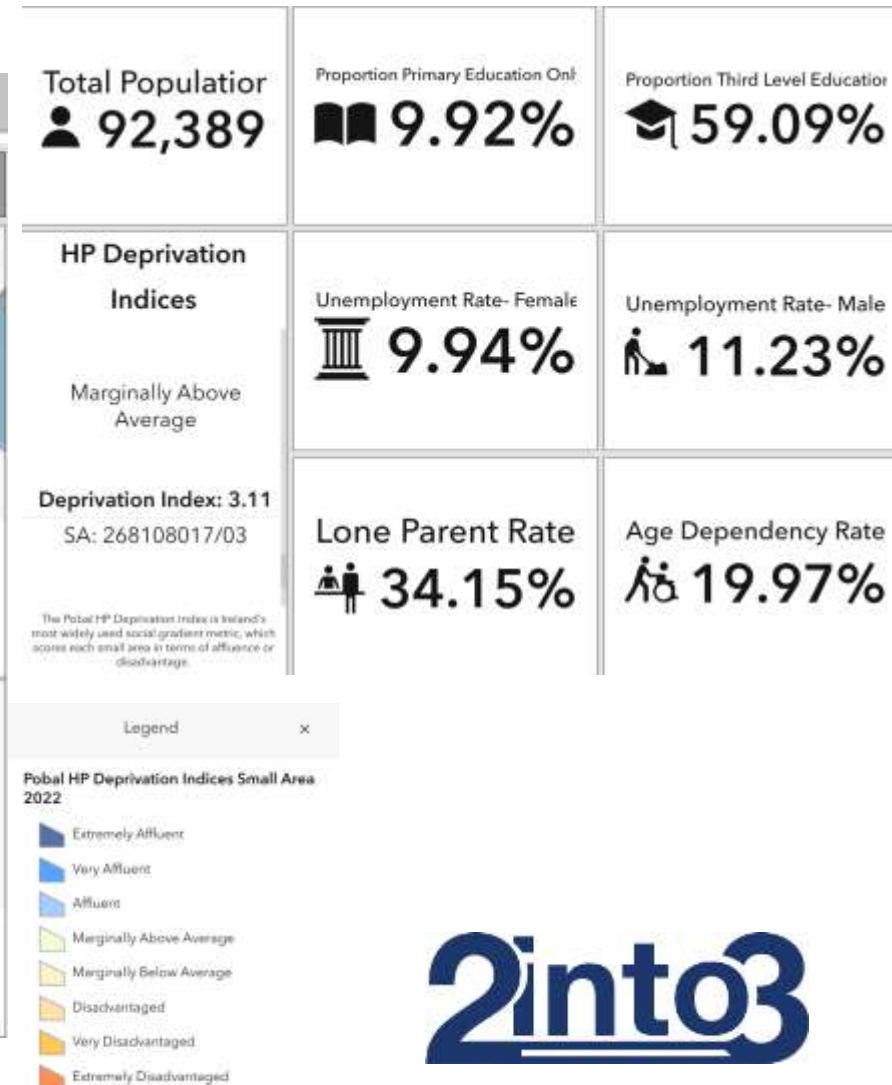
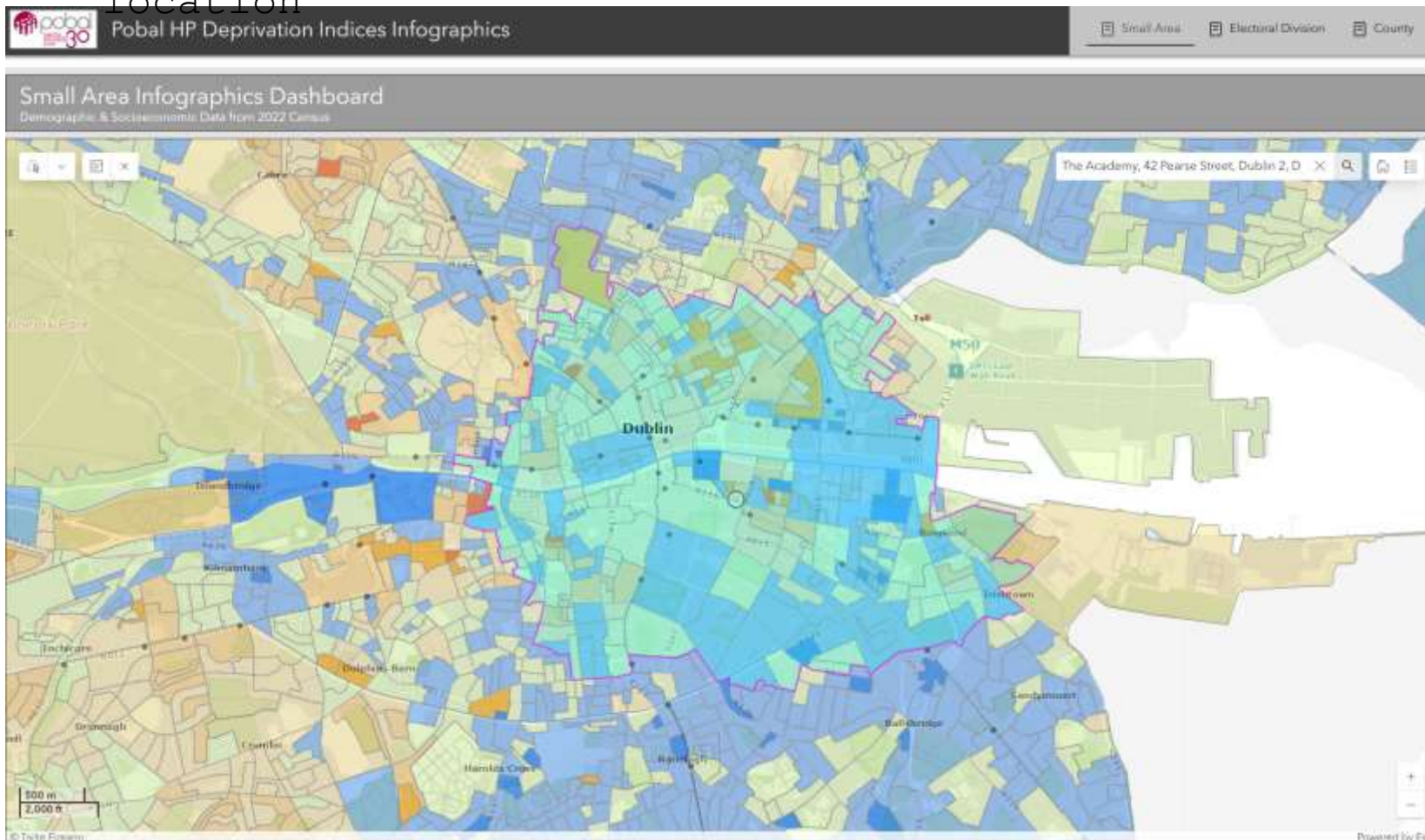
Score	Comments
0	Pobal Catchment Index <sup>1</sup> above 10
1	Pobal Catchment Index of deprivation of 0.01 to 10
2	Pobal Catchment Index of deprivation of 0 to -5.99
3	Pobal Catchment Index of deprivation of -6 to -9.99
4	Pobal Catchment Index of deprivation of -10 to -19.99
5	Pobal Catchment Index of deprivation -20 or below
Max marks available under this criterion (5 x 7 = 35) : <b>19%</b> of total marks	

- Utilise Pobal Maps (Example on next slide)
- Your catchment area is where all your user groups come from, not just exact location – be precise – know your members
- Make sure to evidence this in describing your members and user groups backgrounds.



# Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area - Pobal Deprivation Index - <https://maps.pobal.ie/WebApps/DeprivationIndices/index.html>

Link your story to  
location



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# Criterion 4a Technical merits of the project (weighting 3)

Score	Comments – Max marks 3 x 3 = 9: 4.9% of total marks
0	Quotation(s) is basic or with no breakdown of the elements of the project.
1	Quotation(s) is detailed and clearly sets out cost of each part of project or planning permission has been applied for.
2	Planning permission has been acquired or the template signed by the local authority or technical supervisor to show that it is not needed but quotation(s) is basic with no breakdown of the elements of the project, or good quotations and planning permission has been applied for or the project consists of equipment only with no detailed breakdown of the equipment being sought.
3	Planning permission has been acquired or the template signed by the local authority or technical supervisor to show that it is not needed and quotation(s) is detailed and clearly sets out cost of each part of project or the project consists of equipment only with a detailed breakdown of the equipment being sought.

Score	Comments – Max marks 3 x 3 = 9: 4.9% of total marks
0	Little or no reference to sustainability measures.
1	Some evidence of sustainability actions provided.
2	Good evidence provided of commitment to sustainability
3	Good evidence of commitment to sustainability and project itself has a high-level sustainability element, including artificial sports surfaces that specifically confirm that <b>non</b> -microplastics infill is to be used.

- Quotes(1) & Planning
- Easy mistakes
- AI does not know your club better than you – do not sound like everyone else

Score	Comments – Max marks 2 x 3 = 6: 3.3% of total marks
0	Incomplete application submitted by deadline, revised document(s) required – no bonus points awarded.
2	Complete and valid application submitted by deadline, revised document(s) not required – bonus points awarded.

- Look to link in with your local action plan or any Tennis Ireland objectives





# Criterion 5 Level of own funding available (weighting 1)

Points	Pobal Catchment Index above 10	Pobal Catchment Index 0.01 – 10	Pobal Catchment Index 0 to - 5.99	Pobal Catchment Index -6 to - 9.99)	Pobal Catchment Index -10 to -19.99	Pobal Catchment Index below -20
0	<15% or 15%-19.99% but a high proportion of the own funding is by way of a loan	<10% or 10% - 15.99% but a high proportion of the own funding is by way of a loan	5%-10.99% but a high proportion of the own funding is by way of a loan	5%-8.99% but a high proportion of the own funding is by way of a loan	5%-7.99% but a high proportion of the own funding is by way of a loan	5%-5.99% but a high proportion of the own funding is by way of a loan
1	15%-19.99%	10%-15.99%	5%-10.99%	5%-8.99%	5%-7.99%	5%-5.99%
2	20%-24.99%	16%-20.99%	11%-15.99%	9%-12.99%	8%-10.99%	6%-6.99%
3	25% - 29.99%	21%-25.99%	16%-20.99%	13%-16.99%	11%-13.99%	7%-7.99%
4	30%-34.99%	26%-29.99%	21%-25.99%	17%-20.99%	14%-16.99%	8%-8.99%
5	35%-39.99%	30%-34.99%	26%-30.99%	21%-24.99%	17%-19.99%	9%-9.99%
6	40%+	35%+	31%+	25%+	20%+	10%+

- Your Pobal catchment area deprivation index will impact level of matched funding required.
- Can be as low as 5%.
- Best practice to aim for 20% with minimum aim of 10%.
- Extra points awarded for those groups willing to finance more of project.
- What can you afford?
- Clann Credo & CFI – low interest social loan



# Criterion 6 Level of Sports Capital and Equipment Programme funding received in the past 10 years (weighting 2)

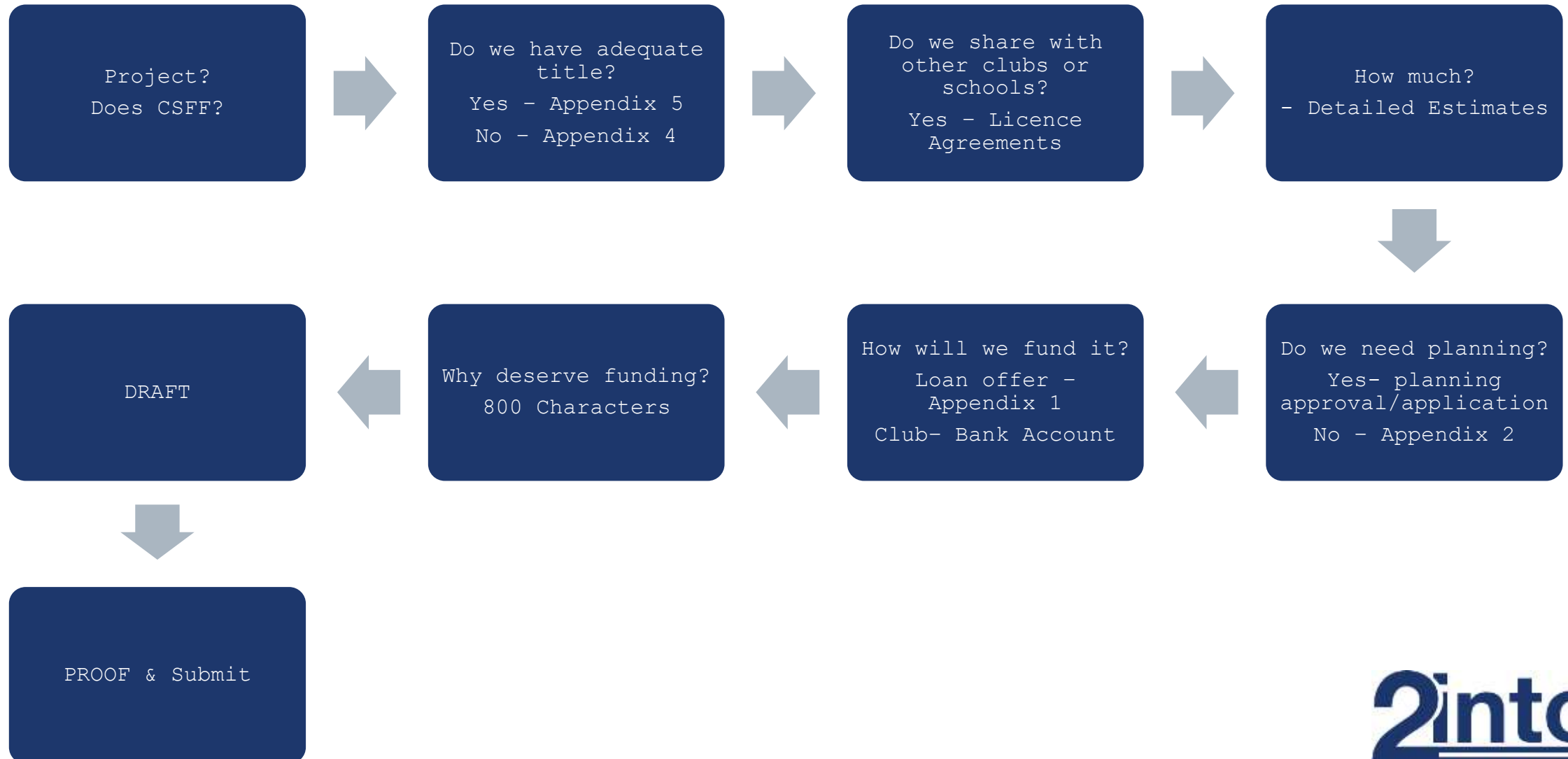
Score	Comments (includes grants allocated in or after 2013)
0	More than €250,000 in Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
1	€200,000 - €249,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
2	€160,000 - €199,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
3	€130,000 - €159,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
4	€100,000 - €129,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
5	€80,000 - €99,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
6	€65,000 - €79,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
7	€50,000 - €64,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
8	€35,000 - €49,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
9	€25,000 - €34,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
10	€15,000 - €24,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
11	€10,000 - €14,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
12	€5,000 - €9,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years
13	€0 - €4,999 Sports Capital Programme funding received in the past 10 years

- Cannot change this factor of points.
- Either you have received funding in the last 10 years or you have not.

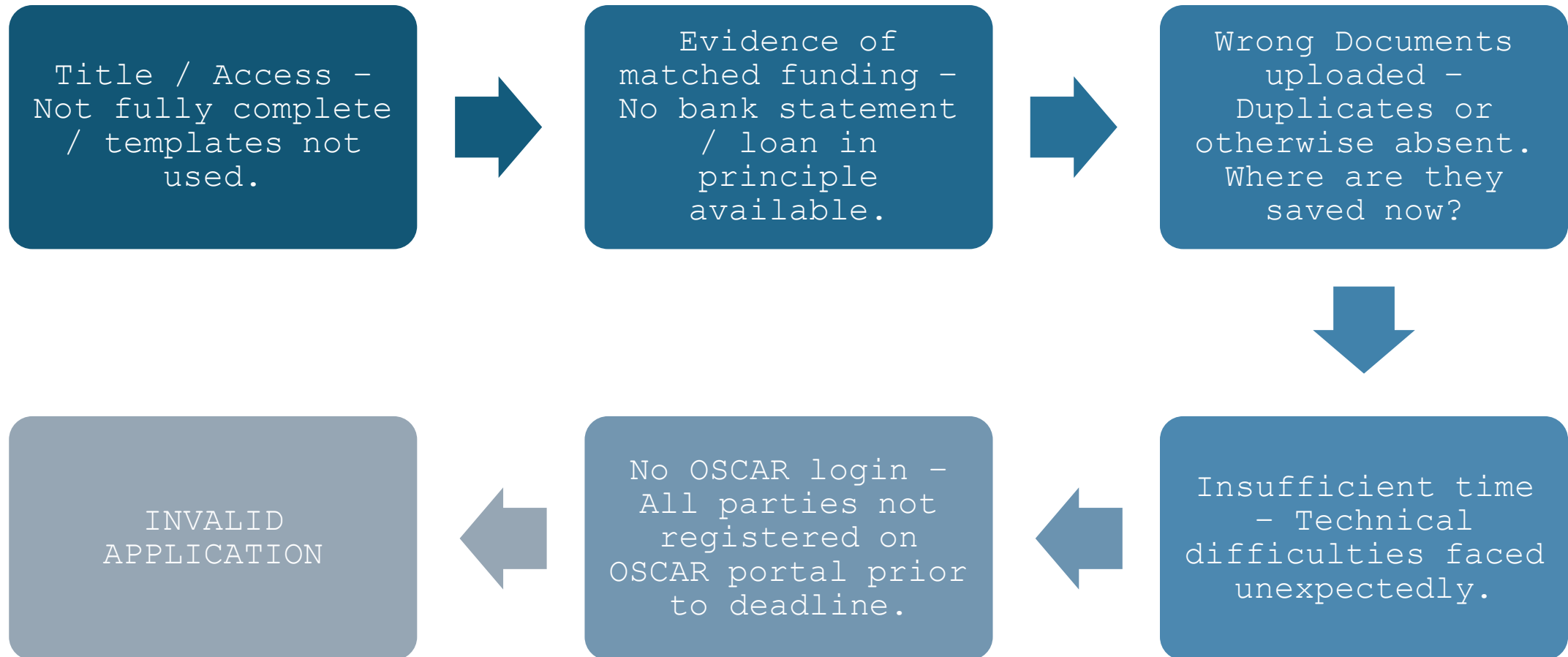
# CSFF Documentation Required

All	Title	No Title	National Regional	Non-Equipment	ETB/School
Quotation Proof of funding	Quotation	Quotation	Quotation	Quotation	Quotation
	Proof of funding	Proof of funding	Proof of funding	Proof of funding	Proof of funding
	Evidence of ownership of site	Evidence of access to site	Confirmation of status	Evidence of PP/ PA or evidence PP not required	Licence agreements between groups
Appendix 1:	Template Loan Offer				
Appendix 2:	Template to be completed where planning permission is NOT required				
Appendix 3:	Information on Licence Agreements between parties on joint applications				
Appendix 4:	Template for landlord to confirm continued access - capital allocations of €70k or less				
Appendix 5:	Template to satisfy Title Requirements				
Appendix 5A:	Title Template for schools where The Minister for Education owns land				
Appendix 6:	Guidance Note for Sustainability Measures for Applicants				

# Being Grant Ready for CSFF (Based on 2023)



# CSFF Common Pitfalls – do not underestimate



# Get in Touch



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