



Volunteer Ireland

Pre-Budget Submission 2027



Volunteer Ireland

Obair Dheonach Éireann

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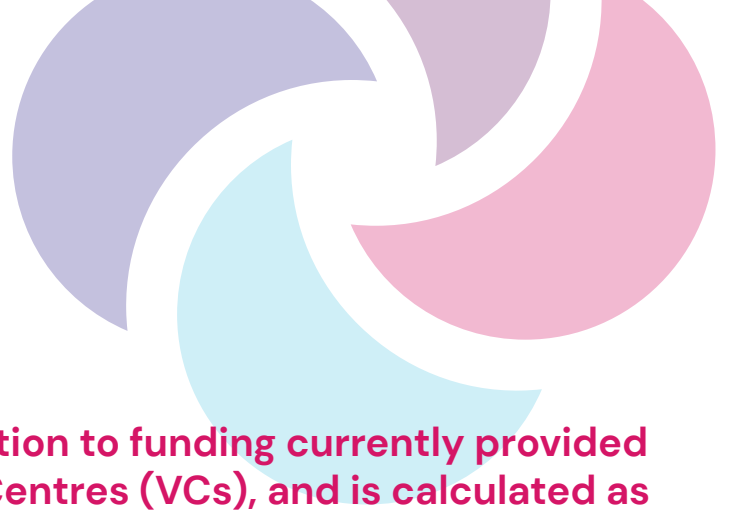
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Summary of requested budget allocation for volunteering

Volunteering is a cornerstone of Irish society, contributing significantly to public wellbeing, community cohesion, and service delivery across key sectors such as health, youth, homelessness, disability, and sport. Volunteering strengthens communities by building resilience, promoting integration and social inclusion, and contributing to a sustainable future. Volunteering contributes an estimated €2.5 billion annually to the Irish economy.¹ The 2022 Irish Charity Engagement Monitor showed that about 27% of the population over the age of 15, or 1.1 million people, volunteer.² According to our 2026 national survey of organisations that involve volunteers, 57% said they did not believe that volunteering is recognised and valued by the public for the contribution it makes to society. Volunteering is not just a “nice to have” – it is a necessity for Ireland. Yet, despite its immense economic and social value, volunteering is taken for granted and remains underfunded.

At the same time, volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) report growing challenges in recruiting and retaining volunteers. In our 2026 survey of organisations that involves volunteers, 49% of VIOs said recruiting and retaining volunteers to meet their organisational needs had become more difficult in the last 12 months.³ The survey also shows that 91% of organisations believe they would not be able to operate without volunteers. This mirrors the findings from our 2026 national survey of volunteers, where 88% believe that without volunteers, non-profit organisations and community groups could not operate, reiterating the important role of volunteering to Irish society. Volunteering is not simply a social good, it is national infrastructure. Volunteers support the delivery of key services in health, disability, sport, youth, homelessness, migration integration, climate response, community resilience and more. They strengthen social ties, reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and help communities respond in times of crisis. This requires investment in the systems and infrastructure that make volunteering possible.

An investment of €2,390,442 is required to ensure that volunteering continues to thrive in Ireland. The return on this investment in terms of savings to the State and the value of volunteering to our society is enormous.



The requested investment is in addition to funding currently provided to Volunteer Ireland and Volunteer Centres (VCs), and is calculated as follows:

1. Ring-fence funding to support the delivery of the new National Volunteering Strategy (NVS) at a total cost of €940,442 to cover the following:
 - a. Fulfil and deliver key activities started in the previous NVS:
 - Training for volunteer managers at a cost of €265,442
 - Deliver communications around volunteering at a cost of €120,000
 - Improve quality in volunteer programmes through the Volunteer Friendly quality mark at a cost of €50,000
 - b. Adequately fund the celebration of volunteers through the Volunteer Ireland Awards at an additional cost of €5,000
 - c. Create a Volunteer Activation Fund that volunteer involving organisations can apply for to support their volunteer programmes at a cost of €500,000

2. Increase core funding to Volunteer Ireland at a cost of €100,000 as part of a review of our funding model.

3. Fund a full-time Volunteer Network Support Officer to support the growing volunteering infrastructure at a cost of €50,000 and maintain the €1 million funding provided to Volunteer Centres to engage and support new communities.

4. Fund the new national volunteering database at a cost of €300,000 per year, excluding set up and migration costs to the new system.



Introduction

Volunteer Ireland welcomes the opportunity to outline measures that we believe should be reflected in Budget 2027. Volunteering has long been at the core of Irish society. It ensures the delivery of vital services that otherwise would not be delivered or would instead be delivered at great cost to the State. In research conducted by Volunteer Ireland, the public identified “not enough support for people in society who need our help” as the number one concern.⁴ In many cases, volunteers and the organisations that engage them are at the core of providing help to the most vulnerable members of society. We saw evidence of this throughout the pandemic, in our response to recent world events including war, and in community responses to weather related events such as storms.

As we experience more frequent emergencies and tackle a cost-of-living crisis, volunteering continues to play a critical role in our society. Beyond fiscal savings to the State, volunteering creates social capital that helps our communities survive in times of crisis and thrive in better times. From sports clubs to clean-up groups and support lines, volunteering is not just a ‘nice to have’, it’s critical to the health and survival of our communities.

As the first National Volunteering Strategy (NVS) ended in December 2025, it is imperative that key priorities identified in it are fully delivered and that its successor is fully resourced to ensure continuity and to sustain the progress that has been made under the current strategy. Budget 2027 is an opportunity for the Government to further demonstrate its commitment to volunteering for all and upholding Irish values of inclusion, tolerance, solidarity, justice and civic participation.

About Volunteer Ireland

Volunteer Ireland is the national organisation that promotes, supports and advocates for volunteering in Ireland.

Our vision is an Ireland where volunteering thrives.

We work with a range of stakeholders to make volunteering accessible, inclusive and of high quality.

We build capacity in organisations and companies to create meaningful volunteering experiences.

We celebrate volunteering and communicate its impact to Government and the wider public.

We advocate for volunteers so that their value is recognised.

We support the network of Volunteer Centres and work closely with them to ensure volunteering thrives at local and national level.

Volunteering in Ireland

Volunteering is at the heart of every community across Ireland, affecting every member of the population directly or indirectly. From the rural village hall hosting weekly activities for isolated adults, to the urban homeless shelter providing overnight accommodation, from the sports club nurturing the next generation of young people, to the hospital volunteers bringing comfort to anxious patients, volunteering weaves through the fabric of Irish life making a significant difference. In our 2025 research conducted by IPSOS, 88% of respondents said that volunteering had made a meaningful difference to and met the needs of the wider community.⁵ Volunteering is a cornerstone of Irish society and contributes significantly to public wellbeing, community cohesion, and essential service delivery across sectors including health, youth services, homeless supports, disability and sport.

As our country continues to navigate post pandemic recovery and faces an ongoing cost-of-living crisis, volunteers play an increasingly critical role in maintaining essential services that government and commercial sectors cannot provide alone.

Economic value

Volunteering contributes an estimated €2.5 billion annually to the Irish economy, not including the unquantified social capital generated through community resilience, improved wellbeing, and civic engagement.⁶ Over 1 million or about 27% of people over the age of 15 in Ireland volunteer, contributing millions of hours that sustain both statutory and community-led services.⁷ In addition, volunteering produces cost savings by delivering services in areas such as homelessness, disability and health that otherwise would need to be delivered by the State.

Volunteering has a real impact that contributes to our economy in several ways:



Volunteering plays a key role in preparing the workforce of the future, with 70% of those between 16 and 24 saying they volunteer to develop skills to help their career.⁸ Aside from skills development, volunteering also provides young people with a broader perspective and awareness of society, making them more well-rounded professionals.



Volunteering has a significant economic impact in rural areas. According to Volunteer Ireland's research into rural volunteerism, 83% said that volunteering in their area saved on public spending by relieving pressure on public services, while 74% felt that it increased funding coming into the community.⁹



Volunteering is proven to increase the physical and mental health of volunteers and, by extension, their communities. Our 2026 national survey of volunteers showed that 86% of volunteers reported an improvement to their wellbeing as a result of volunteering.¹⁰ This represents a significant cost saving to an already overstretched HSE.

Social value

Volunteering offers a wealth of benefits to individuals, communities and society. Without volunteering, we would see more division, lower sense of belonging in our communities, and increased isolation.¹¹ “Loneliness and a lack of human connection” was identified as a top concern in research commissioned by

Volunteer Ireland.¹² We saw evidence of the importance of volunteering for social connection during the pandemic when many volunteers spoke to us about their increased isolation, volunteering was the only social outlet, for many. Volunteering continues to provide social value in our communities in several ways:



In rural areas, which typically suffer from greater levels of isolation, volunteering has been shown to be a key social connector with volunteers reporting increased access to support networks as a result of their volunteering.¹³



Volunteering plays a significant role in social cohesion and integration by bringing people together, fostering mutual understanding and bridging cultural and social divides. Our 2026 national survey of volunteers also showed that 86% of volunteers had an increased sense of being part of or belonging to the community as a result of volunteering, while 78% of respondents reported that volunteering helped them understand different cultures within the community.¹⁴



Local Volunteer Centres play a critical role supporting those with additional support needs to volunteer. People with disabilities, chronic illnesses or poor mental health often need extra support to find a suitable volunteer role and the VC is uniquely placed to support them on their journey. They also act as a social hub in the community providing training, support, advice and vital services like Garda vetting.



The services delivered by volunteers across the country are vital to growing our social capital. From critical services like Meals on Wheels to support lines like the Samaritans, volunteers connect our communities in incalculable ways. Initiatives like befriending services, dementia cafes, knitting groups and community choirs, to name just a few, are all part of our rich social fabric.

Imagine the improved health outcomes, the increased sense of belonging, and the reduced social isolation we could achieve if we invest in volunteering.

As volunteering plays such a huge role in our society, it is imperative that we protect it.

Volunteering doesn't happen without investment and support. Many organisations report increasing difficulties in both recruiting and retaining volunteers, and the way people want to volunteer continues to change.

We must address these challenges and invest in volunteering now or we risk a drop in levels of volunteering. Not only would this lead to negative social outcomes in our communities, but it would also lead to gaps in delivery of critical services in many areas. Volunteering is critical to strong, sustainable communities and continued support and investment is needed to ensure volunteering continues to thrive.

Current Funding

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht currently support the volunteering infrastructure through a core budget of €5,655,474 broken down as follows:

- €5,262,289 to support a network of 29 local county-based Volunteer Centres.
- €378,185 to support Volunteer Ireland, the national volunteer development organisation and support body for Volunteer Centres.
- €15,000 to support the annual Volunteer Ireland Awards, the major annual initiative to celebrate and shine a light on the remarkable achievements of volunteers around the country by honouring them at a national level.

This funding is vital to support volunteering and is gratefully acknowledged by Volunteer Ireland and the Volunteer Centres.

Further investment is required to adequately support volunteering and ensure that it thrives, as detailed below.



Budget 2027

priorities

Volunteers significantly expand the Government's capacity to provide vital public services. From search and rescue, such as the RNLI and Civil Defence, to community health checks, support lines, and climate response efforts, volunteers deliver services that would otherwise not be available or would place unsustainable pressure on public sector agencies. Volunteers play a critical role in hospitals, mental health services, patient transport, palliative care, and community-based health programmes. Organisations such as the Irish Cancer Society, ALONE, and the Irish Red Cross rely on volunteers to deliver core services. Volunteers are also on the front lines of humanitarian responses to homelessness. Organisations such as Focus Ireland and the Dublin Simon Community depend on trained volunteers for outreach, meal provision, nighttime services, and advocacy. However, these services cannot function without sustained investment in the organisations and infrastructure that support volunteer management, training, safeguarding, and inclusion.

The organisations that deliver these services on behalf of the government, engage and rely on volunteers as part of their delivery model. Organisations like Special Olympics Ireland and the Irish Wheelchair Association integrate thousands of volunteers into their core service models. Since volunteering is changing and organisations increasingly report difficulty in recruiting the volunteers they need, it is imperative that the government adequately funds volunteering, particularly to organisations that deliver services on their behalf. The true cost of volunteer engagement must be adequately covered in Government funding to organisations that deliver public services and rely on volunteers. Volunteering does not happen without support; it requires significant investment to sustain it.

The new National Volunteering Strategy

With the new National Volunteering Strategy (NVS) due to be published this summer, Budget 2027 must ensure that the strategy is fully resourced from the outset. A strategy without implementation funding risks becoming aspirational rather than transformational.

The new strategy should build on the progress made under the first NVS, but it must also address the reality that a number of key actions from the previous strategy remain incomplete or underdelivered. These should not be lost in the transition to a new framework. Instead, they should be carried forward, funded and delivered through the new NVS. In particular, there remains a strong need for investment in:

- Capacity building and professional development for volunteer managers in VIOs;
- Delivering communications about the impact of volunteering and encouraging people to volunteer; and
- Improving the quality of volunteering in VIOs through roll out of the Volunteer Friendly quality mark that was piloted in 2022.

The previous NVS recognised these needs explicitly:

- Action 20 committed to “invest in capacity building in volunteer involving organisations through a suite of training for Volunteer Managers.”
- Action 37 committed to “develop a national communications strategy to include information campaigns at national, regional and local levels communicating the value, benefits and impact of volunteering to include targeted media campaigns focusing on specific areas of volunteering e.g. benefits for the unemployed, health benefits, community benefits, young people, older people.”
- Action 24 committed to “Introduce a standard tiered code of conduct(s) for Volunteer Involving Organisations, to offer protection and clarity on expectations of the volunteer and the VIO.”

Capacity Building

Research commissioned by the Government on the training needs of volunteer managers identified clear demand and made detailed recommendations. These recommendations must now be implemented. The effective management of Ireland's more than one million volunteers is critical to the success and sustainability of the non-profit sector, yet the majority of volunteer managers lack access to adequate training and support. The research on training needs of volunteer managers found that over half (54%) have not received any formal training for their role, with 58% of organisations reporting no training budget available for volunteer managers or volunteers.¹⁵ The most pressing training needs identified by managers include promoting a positive volunteering culture (63%), legal issues in volunteering (59%), motivating volunteers (59%), risk management (55%), and developing volunteer strategies (53%).¹⁶ Additional priority areas include evaluating the impact of volunteer programmes (52%), engaging young people (52%), engaging volunteers from migrant or underrepresented groups (51%), and dealing with difficult behaviour (51%).¹⁷

Barriers to accessing training are significant: 62% of managers have only 1–2 hours per month available for training, and rural managers face particular challenges in accessing in-person training opportunities.¹⁸ The most commonly accessed training is provided by Volunteer Ireland and Volunteer Centre Network, followed by online courses, but peer learning, though valued, is underutilised and rarely formalised.¹⁹

To address these gaps, the report recommends increased investment in training budgets, the development of a nationally accredited volunteer management qualification, the creation of a dedicated online hub for training and peer learning, and targeted support for rural and small organisations. These measures are essential to build capacity of volunteer managers, ensure sustainability of volunteer involving organisations, and achieve the objectives of the NVS.²⁰

This is especially urgent because volunteer management has changed significantly in recent years. Organisations now face greater safeguarding and compliance requirements; increased expectations around quality and inclusion; changing patterns of volunteer participation including increasing demand for more flexible and episodic volunteering; increased competition for people's time; and greater complexity in recruiting, retaining and supporting volunteers. The Government has already invested in the evidence base for this work. The next step must be implementation.

Communications

During the first National Volunteering Strategy, a significant investment was made to develop a communications strategy for volunteering, but communications campaigns have not yet been implemented. Our recent consultations in 2025 with VIOs and volunteers re-affirmed the ongoing need for a sustained national communications campaign highlighting the social, cultural, and economic value of volunteering. Consultation feedback stressed the importance of showcasing diverse stories, including migrants, older

volunteers, and people with disabilities, to demonstrate the inclusivity and breadth of volunteering. A sustained national campaign is key to highlighting the value of volunteering and inspiring more people to volunteer. It provides much needed support for smaller organisations to recruit volunteers as they don't have a budget or capacity for communications of their own. It is also the most visible way to showcase Ireland's strong culture of volunteering and the Government's commitment to volunteering.

Volunteer Friendly Quality Mark

During the previous National Volunteering Strategy, Volunteer Ireland and five Volunteer Centres piloted Volunteer Friendly, which is a user-friendly quality standard to support and recognise groups that excel at engaging and involving volunteers. It is a self-assessment tool for organisations that also provides numerous resources to help them achieve each element of the standard. Through the pilot, Volunteer Ireland and the Volunteer Centres supported 14 volunteer involving organisations to achieve the standard.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We now aim to roll this out across more Volunteer Centres and volunteer involving organisations, to build capacity in these organisations and support quality experiences for volunteers. In order to move forward on Volunteer Friendly, Volunteer Ireland must take the lead in terms of coordinating the programme, supporting Volunteer Centres and paying associated costs such as licencing and website fees. This cost is estimated at €50,000.

Recognition

A crucial element of supporting volunteering is through recognition. With many organisations working with limited budgets and struggling to retain volunteers, national recognition programmes provide an opportunity for organisations to celebrate their volunteers with no resources required on their part. Volunteer Ireland is grateful for the ongoing support provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for the annual Volunteer Ireland Awards, as part of delivering Action 32 in the previous National Volunteering Strategy. The Volunteer Ireland Awards are the major annual initiative

celebrating volunteers in Ireland and shining a light on their remarkable achievements by honouring them at a national level. We request an increase of €5,000 (from €15,000 to €20,000) to help us to continue delivering the awards amid the rising costs of goods and services.

Volunteer Activation Fund

A dedicated Volunteer Activation Fund should be established to provide funding to VIOs that rely heavily on volunteers to deliver key services to support their volunteer programmes. Thousands of organisations across the country rely on volunteers to deliver critical services in our communities. Many don't have a dedicated volunteer manager or a dedicated budget to support volunteers. Similarly, organisations operating on already stretched resources don't have the capacity to pay volunteer expenses or attend training courses. Unfortunately, many statutory and other funding streams do not include a budget line

to support volunteering, despite the critical role volunteers play in delivering organisations' services. This fund would allow organisations to avail of small grants to support their volunteer programme. For example, this fund could be accessed to pay volunteer expenses, attend training on volunteer retention and provide recognition to volunteers. This is a tangible and practical measure which would provide direct help to organisations that rely on volunteers to deliver their services.

Recommendation 1: Ring-fence funding for the implementation of the new National Volunteering Strategy

Ensure adequate funding to implement the new NVS as follows:

- a) Fulfil and deliver key activities started in previous NVS:
 - Training for volunteer managers at a cost of €265,442
 - Deliver communications around volunteering at a cost of €120,000
 - Improve quality in volunteer programmes through the Volunteer Friendly quality mark at a cost of €50,000
- b) Adequately fund the celebration of volunteers through the Volunteer Ireland Awards at an additional cost of €5,000
- c) Create a Volunteer Activation Fund that VIOs can apply for to support their volunteer programmes at the cost of €500,000

Estimated Cost: €940,442

Develop Volunteer Ireland

Volunteering has played a critical role in Irish society for a long time, has shown its true value in our response to recent crises, and continues to be essential to our social cohesion and service delivery. Volunteering represents a significant return on investment to the State, with volunteers providing many services that would otherwise need to be delivered by the Government. This doesn't include additional cost savings around improved health and employability, as well as societal benefits such as decreased isolation and increased citizen engagement.

We appreciate the core funding received on an annual basis from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and understand that the Department has committed to reviewing Volunteer Ireland's funding model following completion of the VC funding model review. We request that this review be expedited and that it takes into consideration an increase to Volunteer Ireland's capacity to allow us to continue to deliver key elements of the previous National Volunteering Strategy sustainably into the future; deliver aspects of the new National Volunteering Strategy being developed; and adequately support Volunteer Centres whose capacity and support needs have increased by about 30% due to their growth.



Recommendation 2: Increase funding to Volunteer Ireland to develop volunteering in Ireland

- Increase core funding allocated to Volunteer Ireland as part of a new funding model, by €100,000 from €378,185 to €478,185. This is to ensure that we sustain our work in the current economic environment; and adequately support the growing network of Volunteer Centres.

Estimated Cost: €100,000


Support to Volunteer Centres

Volunteer Centres provide vital supports to volunteering in our communities across Ireland. This is achieved through the provision of a referral service via the national volunteering database I-VOL, delivery of volunteer management training, the processing of Garda vetting and collaboration with other stakeholders like jobs clubs, mental health services and libraries. The Volunteer Centres also deliver several bespoke projects across a variety of areas, for example, social inclusion for people with disabilities, engaging young people in Transition Year, and supporting older people to volunteer.

As experts in volunteering and the key support to volunteers and volunteer involving organisations in local communities, Volunteer Centres are critical to the delivery of the new National Volunteering Strategy. With a new funding model, Volunteer Centres are continuing to grow and increase their capacity to deliver more to support volunteering in our communities.

One example of the valuable role that Volunteer Centres play is their work with International Protection Applicants and displaced people from Ukraine. A challenge facing many migrants when they first arrive to Ireland is having little to no understanding of how the Irish landscape works in terms of employment, housing, social benefits, education, etc. Many migrants don't have a network of local contacts or friends that they can ask basic, everyday questions. Volunteering is a unique way for migrants to immerse themselves within Irish communities and get to know people. Migrants also face isolation and loneliness. Through volunteering, migrants can become active members of their new community, meet people and build their own local network.

Volunteer Centres deliver targeted integration projects in their localities such as supporting the delivery of English language classes, befriending programmes and engaging volunteer community drivers to support migrants who are isolated in their accommodation. They also provide extra support to migrants, who may face additional barriers such as language and transport, to find suitable volunteer roles.

A man in a grey sweater is looking at a photo album. The photo album shows a man in a yellow shirt. The background is a blurred office setting with a window and some papers.

Recommendation 3: Fund a full-time Volunteer Network Support Officer to support the growing volunteering infrastructure

Volunteer Ireland supports the network of 29 Volunteer Centres with training, communications, advocacy and general administration. The Volunteer Centre network has grown and plays an important role in delivering elements of the National Volunteering Strategy locally. A full-time Volunteer Network Support Officer is required to provide administrative support for the network to work collectively through various working groups, for example on identifying new innovations, supporting quality improvement and sharing best practice.

Estimated Cost: €50,000

Recommendation 4: Maintain the dedicated funding provided to Volunteer Centres to engage and support new communities, including International Protection applicants, refugees, migrants and other newly arrived populations

Volunteering plays a significant role in supporting the integration of new communities in Ireland. Volunteering helps combat isolation and loneliness by supporting migrants to foster connections, learn about their community, and create a sense of place and belonging. Volunteer Centres have received €1,000,000 annually to support the civic engagement of Ukrainians, IPAs, and migrants. This funding has enabled Volunteer Centres to conduct outreach, offer tailored support, and ensure the successful involvement of members of new communities in local projects. Since 2022, Volunteer Centres have delivered over 160 such programmes across Ireland, engaging over 9,800 volunteers and benefitting 1,670 community groups.

Estimated Cost: €1,000,000

Secure the future of the national volunteering database

Volunteer Ireland, along with the network of Volunteer Centres, manage the national volunteering database I-VOL. This Salesforce powered platform allows organisations to advertise volunteer roles and allows volunteers to search for roles that suit their interests and skills. It provides a wealth of data into volunteering such as demographic information, volunteer hours and motivations. As a bespoke solution, I-VOL has undergone several developments in recent years including a new user-friendly website and the integration of the Community Volunteers platform.

As the review of I-VOL, commissioned by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, is almost complete, it is critical that funding is ring-fenced in Budget 2027 to deliver the recommendations of this review. Aside from the initial cost of setup and migration, which we hope will be delivered in 2026, the Government must commit to ongoing annual funding for the database.

A new database provides the opportunity for modernisation and innovation in terms of end user experience, improving Volunteer Centre workflow and collecting local and national data to inform policy making. A commitment to ongoing, annual investment is critical to ensuring it continues to meet the needs of volunteering into the future.



Recommendation 5: Ring-fence funding for the new national volunteering database

- Set aside a budget of €300,000 per year to fund the updated national volunteering database (excludes set up and migration costs).

Estimated Cost: €300,000 per year

Conclusion

Volunteers give their time freely, but effective volunteering does not happen for free. Behind every volunteer is infrastructure: training, communication, coordination, safeguarding, digital systems, quality standards, local support and national leadership that must be adequately resourced.

Budget 2027 presents a critical opportunity to:

- Launch the new NVS with adequate implementation funding.
- Sustain Volunteer Ireland's capacity to serve the sector effectively.
- Strengthen Volunteer Centres serving diverse communities.
- Secure the future of the national volunteer database connecting volunteers and opportunities.
- Provide adequate support to VIOs who rely on volunteers to deliver essential services

Volunteer Ireland is available to discuss this submission and to provide any additional information required to support the rationale for greater support for volunteers in Ireland.

Endnotes

- 1 Indecon (2018). Assessment of the Economic Value of Volunteering in Ireland
- 2 Irish Charity Engagement Monitor, Winter Report 2022
- 3 National Survey of Volunteer Involving Organisations 2026, Volunteer Ireland
- 4 Irish Charity Engagement Monitor, Winter Report 2022
- 5 Ipsos Volunteering Online Research 2025 (on behalf of Volunteer Ireland)
- 6 Indecon (2018). Assessment of the Economic Value of Volunteering in Ireland.
- 7 Irish Charity Engagement Monitor, Winter Report 2022
- 8 Irish Charity Engagement Monitor, Winter Report 2022
- 9 Volunteer Ireland Report: The Impact of Volunteering on the health and wellbeing of the volunteer
- 10 National Survey of Volunteers 2026, Volunteer Ireland
- 11 Volunteer Ireland Report: The Impact of Volunteering on the health and wellbeing of the volunteer
- 12 Irish Charity Engagement Monitor, Winter Report 2022
- 13 Volunteer Ireland Report: The Impact of Volunteering on the health and wellbeing of the volunteer
- 14 National Survey of Volunteers 2026, Volunteer Ireland
- 15 The Training Needs of Volunteer Managers in Ireland: Final Report 2024. Over half (54%) of volunteer managers have not received any formal training for their role.
- 16 Ibid. 58% of organisations reported no training budget.
- 17 Ibid. Top training needs: promoting a positive volunteering culture (63%), legal issues in volunteering (59%), motivating volunteers (59%), risk management (55%), developing volunteer strategies (53%)
- 18 Ibid. 62% of managers have only 1-2 hours per month available for training.
- 19 Ibid, Recommendations: increased funding, accredited qualification, online hub, rural/small org support
- 20 National Volunteering Strategy 2021–2025



**Volunteer
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Obair Dheonach Éireann

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