Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP)

REAP – Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. Do I need to have a partner organisation and why?

Yes. You need to show that you are committed to working in partnership with a relevant organisation(s) in order to meet the strategic themes of this programme, please refer to the [Guidance Notes for this fund on the Arts Council's website page (opens in a new tab)](#)

What we are looking for in projects

We are interested in projects that are as follows:

- Based on a **partnership** approach.
- Support best practice in working with isolated communities though creative activities.
- Developed in partnership with organisations which specialise in the areas prioritised under the programme, for example older people's services, those working in isolated communities, support agencies for mental health and wellbeing, those representing ethnic minorities.
- Examples of partner organisations might include care homes, rural community networks, relevant local authority community relations teams or arts teams, youth organisations, or arts organisations working in these areas.
- It is up to the applicant to identify the relevant agency for advice depending on the nature of their project.
- You may find the Charity Commission guidance below helpful:

  [The Promotion of Social Inclusion (publishing.service.gov.uk)](#)

2. Case Studies

Please refer to the REAP Round 1 and 2 evaluations April 2024 and April 2025 available on the Arts Council web site:

[Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP) - Round 1… | Arts Council NI (artscouncil-ni.org)](#)

[Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP) - Round 2… | Arts Council NI (artscouncil-ni.org)](#)

The case studies illustrate different aspects of community engagement, artistic quality, innovation, personal and organisational outcomes, and will give applicants excellent insights into successful projects.

Note - if you do not wish to work in partnership with other organisations to meet the strategic objectives of this programme you may consider an alternative application to another funding programme. Please contact us for advice artgrants@artscouncil-ni.org

3.   **Where can I go to get assistance with my application?**

Arts Council staff can answer questions relating to the Guidance Notes and enclosures. For assistance with your application, visit our [Staff Contacts webpage (opens in a new tab)](#)

Alternatively, you could ask your Local Authority's Arts and/or Community relations officer(s) for assistance. General contacts are below:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council: info@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
- Ards and North Down Borough Council: enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough: info@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council:info@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk
- Derry City and Strabane District Council: info@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: info@fermanaghomagh.com
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council: enquiries@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council: enquiries@midandeastantrim.gov.uk
- Mid Ulster District Council: info@midulstercouncil.org
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council: council@nmandd.org

4.   **How do I know how much to pay an artist/tutor?**

The Arts Council can contribute to professional fees and other costs like travel (25.7p per mile) but cannot always cover full costs. The applicant organisation should be aware of best practice in rates of pay for artists, for guidance please refer to the [Rates of Pay for Artists Guidance document (opens in a new tab)](#)

5.   **Audience Members**

REAP applicants will be asked for audience member figures, so do please remember to present data on live and online audiences separately. ACNI asks for the number of live audience members and online audience members a project reaches. We use the following definitions:

The term **live audience members** means the number of people together in one place to watch or listen or experience an event, for example a play or a performance.

The term **online audience members** means a virtual audience of people who join an event, a meeting, a performance by using a digital device (a computer or smart phone) via the internet.

As an example, if your project works toward delivering an event such as a visual arts exhibition, then you must count audience members. As an example, you may have 50 audience members physically turn up for your exhibition launch at a gallery or public space. You may count an additional 100 people who visit the gallery over the time your exhibition is open. If you also recorded a video of your live launch event, which you then stream or share

online, you may attract 60 visitors/views of that launch event over the internet. In this example, counting your audience engagement figures separately, you would report,

Live audience members: 150

Online audience members: 60

6. Participant Numbers

You will also be expected to record number of participants attending workshops/courses either in person or online.

7. Post-Project Reporting (PPR)

All successful recipients of REAP funding are expected to supply a post-project report to ACNI. This is an online report and must be completed to assist with research needs and to provide strategic insight into the programme and its beneficiaries.