Cinnamon Network Ireland Project Incubator

Guidance for Applications

Cinnamon Network is looking for Jesus centred and local church centred social action projects from across Ireland (North and South) so that we can provide the projects with business planning, training, coaching and financial support in order to help the project replicate and be deliverable by churches across Ireland and beyond.

We are looking for projects that either:

A: Address issues identified by the Cinnamon Network Ireland Advisory Council. These include: local church responses to mental health, reconciliation, rural isolation, safer communities and substance dependency.

B: Address other clearly identifiable areas of social need

All applications should meet both the eligibility criteria and the Cinnamon Network values as outlined below.

What projects are eligible?

We are looking for social action projects that:

- could be adopted and run by an average sized church

- are simple and replicable

- are bold and want to grow

- have a track record in their local community

- are well led and want to inspire other churches

- have a vision to grow nationally

- have some resources to continue their current work

- respond to social needs in the community

Applications are welcome from projects that are local church based or that are committed to developing their project so that it can be run by local churches. Projects should be running through a registered charity with up-to-date accounts. Projects must be based in either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

To serve the nation

The criteria explained

To help you prepare a great application, we've provided some extra guidance to explain what we mean by the different criteria.

Average sized church

This means projects that are run by a local church or a group of churches serving the needs of the community in their locality. We're looking for projects that help the church to respond to need in their local community. Churches come in lots of sizes, but we're looking for projects that could be run by lots of different churches who have a similar need where they are.

Examples of other projects which are already running in this way can be found at: www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/projects/

Simple and replicable

We're looking for projects that are simple in concept and easy for others to get excited about. In addition, it needs to be easy for other churches to see how they could run the project themselves - wherever that might be.

Replication is all about sharing an existing model, which has been tried and tested over time, and helping others to put that model into practice, without reinventing the wheel.

Bold and want to grow

We're looking for project leaders who are willing to learn and step out of their comfort zone as they, and their project, develop.

We're looking for projects that want to share what they have learnt with others so more churches can step forward and start practically addressing needs in their community.

We're looking for project leaders who aren't satisfied with just running their project locally, but want to see their project model make a big difference in other places. They not only have a vision for what could happen, but they are willing to step forward to see their small project scale up.

A track record in their local community

We're looking for projects that are already running and making a difference in the communities that they seek to serve. We'd love to hear about the impact that your project has had already, and what others in the community say about what the project is doing.

This is why we ask you to include a referee for the project from your local community as well as from your church.

Well led and want to inspire other churches

We're looking for projects that have great leaders who aren't just passionate about their own community, but have a passion for helping other churches serve their communities elsewhere.

Projects may just be running in their founding church or they may have already begun to grow into a couple of other locations involving other churches.

This is why we ask you to include a referee from a leader in your church.

A vision to grow nationally

We're looking for leaders who want to see their project run by other churches in different parts of the country.

Growing through franchising is not about 'going large' in one particular town or city; it means that many people in different locations can adopt a project and run it themselves for their local community.

Some resources to continue their current work

Projects should already have funds in place to continue their current work. The Project Lab development funding will help you scale up your project in new locations and is not a route to filling a current funding gap.

Social need in the community

We're looking for social action projects that make a real difference to the lives of individuals by addressing an identified social need. This social need could relate to a broad range of areas: responding to poverty, social exclusion, community breakdown or helping others to overcome barriers to participation in wider society.

You can look at the full range of projects that are already helping churches to respond to the social need in their community on the Cinnamon website: www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/projects/

Cinnamon Network Values

In the case where potential projects meet all of the criteria, Cinnamon Network will assess the overall fit of the project to ensure it matches the Cinnamon Network's Values which are:

1. **Jesus Centred** – We are faith based but not faith biased in that we are motivated by Jesus to serve people of all faiths and none. This means that projects are fundamentally social action focused.
2. **Local Church Based** – We work through local churches to deliver community projects believing that the network of local churches across the country is one of the UK's greatest social assets.
3. **Relationships** – We value trust based relationships and partnerships as the basis for successful working, and projects which seek to have lasting relationships with beneficiaries.
4. **Professionalism** – We are committed to quality, excellence and best practice.
5. **Transformational** – We are passionate about the holistic wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.
6. **Simplicity** - We prefer simple approaches whilst recognising that the causes of poverty are multiple and complex.
7. **Speed & Scale** – We believe community franchising is a powerful way of responding quickly, efficiently and at scale to urgent social need.

About the selection process

Shortlisting will take place in early September. Applications will be reviewed against the criteria. A judging panel, including representatives from Cinnamon Network and other leaders working in the public, social, community and church sectors will consider which projects to be put forward to the incubator.

A maximum of five projects will be invited to participate in a 2 year incubator support programme. During this period successful projects will:

- Be supported to complete a business plan
- Receive bi-monthly one to one face to face mentoring
- Participate on bi-monthly training days, along with other incubator projects
- Be eligible to receive incubation participation support of up to a total of £30,000 per project, paid in 6 installments. Each payment will be dependent on ongoing full participation in the incubator programme.

Please note that members of the selection panel want to see great social action projects grow – they are looking for potential.

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How to apply?

To be considered, submit a fully completed application form (with all requested attachments) by email only to tommystewart@cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

Applications must be submitted by **5pm on Friday 26th August 2017.**

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