# Research Support Programme

## Call for proposals 2022

## Background

The Housing Agency’s role is to provide expertise and solutions to help deliver sustainable communities and affordable housing for all. It delivers its purpose by supporting stakeholders with evidence-informed insights and data to develop a sustainable Irish housing supply; enabling supply and demand solutions through policy development, innovation and implementation; and ensures stakeholders have the capacity to respond effectively to challenges in the housing system.

One of The Housing Agency’s functions is to undertake and support independent research to support an evidence base to help inform housing policy development and good practice. The Research Support Programme has been an integral part of this function. Since 2020 The Housing Agency has supported eleven independent research projects and recipients have gone on to successfully secure external funding from other sources.

## Research Focus

The Research Section in The Housing Agency has framed a research strategy for 2022-2024, supporting the Government’s Action Plan for Housing, *Housing for All*,[[1]](#footnote-1) and The Housing Agency’s Strategy Statement 2022-2024.[[2]](#footnote-2) In line with these action plans, the Research Support Programme for 2022 will centre on three broad research strands: affordability, social inclusion and sustainable communities.

## Themes:

### **Affordability**

The Affordability theme responds to Pathway 1 in *Housing for All* “Increasing New Housing Supply”

The Housing Agency is particularly interested in projects that focus on one or a mixture of the following sub-themes:

* 1. Innovation
  2. Affordable Construction
  3. Land Efficiency/Use

### **Social Inclusion**

Social Inclusion reflects Pathway 2 in *Housing for All* “Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion”

The Housing Agency is particularly interested in projects that focus on one or a mixture of the following sub-themes:

* 1. Homelessness, especially Youth Homelessness
  2. Housing and Well Being
  3. Migrant Housing Needs

### **Sustainable Communities**

The theme of Sustainable Communities reflects The Housing Agency’s strong commitment to supporting the development of sustainable and resilient communities. The theme also responds to the strong emphasis in *Housing for All*, for embedding social, environmental and economic sustainability in housing.

The Housing Agency is particularly interested in projects that focus on one or a mixture of the following sub-themes:

* 1. Energy/Fuel Poverty
  2. Sustainable Technological Innovation
  3. Vacant housing and buildings
  4. Future proofing communities for climate change

## Nature of Support and Timeline

The grant funding can contribute to research activities including literature reviews, policy reviews, best practice guides, policy evaluation, and various primary research and field research.

We envisage that up to four applications will be awarded for grant funding in 2022, to a maximum of €30,000 per project. Proposals awarded in 2022 should be completed in 2023.

The Agency is open to joint funding of research projects with partnership organisations and welcomes collaborative proposals which may involve academics/professional researchers, housing practitioners working in the local authority, approved housing body, NGO and government sectors.

## Application process

Those wishing to apply for the Research Support Programme can do so by completing an application form which can be found here. Applicants are advised to consult the guidance documents which provides further details on the programme. The Housing Agency will also run an information session for the Research Support Programme in June 2022.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm, Friday 23rd September 2022**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications will be assessed by a panel in accordance with the scoring system outlined in the application form. Funding will be at the absolute discretion of The Housing Agency.

An Information Session on the Research Support Programme will be held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 from 12pm to 1pm. To register for this event click on the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpduypqzIvGdQ32s5c2izR1TXt9wMlLBFZ>

For further information please contact: [researchsupport@housingagency.ie](mailto:researchsupport@housingagency.ie)

All documentation is available on The Housing Agency website: [www.housingagency.ie](http://www.housingagency.ie)

1. Government of Ireland Housing for All – a new housing plan for Ireland, [197237\_29edec3e-6664-4e62-86b2-af2e77f2f609 (3).pdf](file:///C:\Users\annmarie.obrien\Downloads\197237_29edec3e-6664-4e62-86b2-af2e77f2f609%20(3).pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Housing Agency Statement of Strategy, 2022-2024, [The Housing Agency's Statement of Strategy 2022-2024 | The Housing Agency](https://www.housingagency.ie/publications/housing-agencys-statement-strategy-2022-2024) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)