An Ghníomhaireacht Tithíochta
The Housing Agency

Research Support Programme

Call for proposals 2023

Background

The Housing Agency is a government body that uses its expertise to solve problems and support the delivery of high quality, affordable homes and sustainable communities. It provides stakeholders with evidence-informed research, insights and data to help them respond to challenges in the housing system.

One of The Housing Agency's functions is to undertake and support independent research to help inform housing policy development and good practice. The Research Support Programme (RSP) has been an important part of this function. Since 2020 The Housing Agency has supported seventeen independent research projects and some recipients have gone on to secure funding from other sources. Previous successful projects are available on The Housing Agency website.

Research Focus - Sustainability

The Housing Agency's vision is 'to achieve an integrated housing system, meeting the nation's housing needs and promoting sustainable communities.' Following the successful Housing Unlocked exhibition at Trinity College Dublin, in collaboration with The Housing Agency and the Irish Architecture Foundation, the 2023 RSP will focus on sustainability, particularly innovation and expertise in the delivery of housing in towns and cities.

While the overarching theme is sustainability, research proposals should also demonstrate that they meet the objectives of affordability and/or social inclusion.

Sustainability Themes:

Sustainability, as viewed by the Housing Agency, has economic, social and environmental dimensions. Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work now and in the future. They meet the needs of future and current residents, are sensitive to the environment, and contribute to high quality of life.[1]

[1] Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2007), *Delivering Homes Sustaining Communities: statement on housing policy*. Dublin: Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Proposals on the broad theme of sustainability and housing as defined above are invited. Some topics that may be considered (but are not limited to):

1. Retrofitting
2. Rightsizing
3. Sustainable and innovative design (this can include concepts of gentle infill, smart growth, the liveable city, etc)
4. Modern methods of construction
5. Converting vacant commercial premises into housing

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 and field research.

We envisage that successful applications will be awarded a maximum of €30,000 over a twelve-month period. Successful proposals will be awarded in late 2023 and research must be completed in 2024.

The Housing 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 bodies, and NGOs.

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 strongly advised to consult the Guidance Document which provides further details on the programme. The Housing Agency will also run an information session for the Research Support Programme on 25th May 2023 between 1:30pm and 2:30pm. To register for this session please click on this link.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm, Friday 25th August 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.

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

For further information, or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact: researchsupport@housingagency.ie

All documentation is available on The Housing Agency website: www.housingagency.ie