



## Research Support Programme

### Call for Proposals 2024

#### 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. The Housing Agency's vision is 'to achieve an integrated housing system, meeting the nation's housing needs and promoting sustainable communities.'

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 twenty-one 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 – Sustainable Communities

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 and are sensitive to the environment and contribute to high quality of life.<sup>1</sup> Sustainable communities are a key focus of the Government's housing plan, *Housing for All*, which envisions 'people of all incomes living side-by-side, with the right community infrastructure in place to help our cities, towns and villages thrive.'<sup>2</sup>

The 2024 Research Support Programme will focus on sustainable communities, particularly innovation, adaptability, affordability and social inclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2007), *Delivering Homes Sustaining Communities: statement on housing policy*. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

<sup>2</sup> Government of Ireland (2021), *Housing for All: a new housing plan for Ireland*. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



## Sustainable Communities Themes:

The themes below are structured according to the dimensions of Sustainability: Social, Environmental and Economic. Proposals on these themes are invited. We are interested in research proposals including (but not limited to) the following areas:

### **Social**

- Housing and Social Inclusion
- Housing and intellectual disability
- Youth housing
- Mixed tenure / social mixing
- Community development initiatives

### **Environmental**

- Housing innovation and adaptability
- Green infrastructure
- Biodiversity
- Energy efficiency

### **Economic**

- Housing development, transport and the shadow price of carbon
- Economic models for the delivery of affordable housing

We are particularly interested in international research that is relevant to Ireland or could be applied to the Irish context.

## 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 2024 and research must be completed in 2025.

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 sector, 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 documents which provides further details on the programme.

As part of our commitment to build capacity in the housing sector, the Housing Agency plans to award one grant to an early career researcher.<sup>3</sup>

The closing date for receipt of applications is **5pm, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024**. 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.

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<sup>3</sup> Researchers that have graduated with their Ph. D. in the last seven years.