Thank you
for being part of our story.

Twenty-five years ago, as Ulster Community Investment Trust, we began our journey to empower and strengthen local communities across Northern Ireland through responsible social finance lending.

As a social enterprise and charity ourselves, we understood the unique challenges facing the third sector and the importance of providing finance that met community needs. Since that time, our reach and impact have only continued to grow, and today as Community Finance Ireland, we are proud to have a footprint in every county across this island, north and south, helping volunteer-led organisations to make the dreams they have for their communities a reality.

We know that this profound impact has only been made possible with the continued support of our partners, clients and stakeholders, who put their trust in us and share our ambition of creating a future where communities can access social finance that enables them to achieve their vision.

Dónal Traynor
CFI Group Chief Executive



Partners in Community Progress

Stronger communities lead to a stronger society, and over the past quarter century, we have worked alongside a huge diversity of third-sector organisations creating local change.

And what we do so far extends beyond social finance. Through our work with Invest NI on the NI Small Business Loan Fund, we help local enterprises secure the funding they need to take their business to the next level.

We invest in people and relationships through programmes like Networx25, funded by International Fund for Ireland and supported by NICVA. Networx brings together social enterprises from different backgrounds and communities to encourage collaboration and build leadership skills. Through our CommunityFit programme, we provide essential kits that helps grassroots sports clubs thrive.

We are grateful to everyone who has been part of our journey so far and look forward to what comes next for Community Finance Ireland, its clients and partners.



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25 years of social impact

Where finance meets community

Community Finance Ireland is an extraordinary lender. Powered by a singular purpose for 25 years, we are dedicated to providing loans with a people-focused approach. We help passionate and dedicated groups, clubs and organisations to elevate their communities and bring transformative change.

To us, impact means lives changed for the better. It's a new pitch, a better community centre, a green space for play, and so much more. It's a community's dream transformed into reality. There is so much work still to do, and we look forward to working with communities across the island of Ireland to continue to deliver impact where it's needed most.

Sectors we support:

- SPORT
- COMMUNITY SERVICES
- ENTERPRISE & WORKSPACE
- ARTS & HERITAGE
- CHILDCARE
- EDUCATION & TRAINING
- ENVIRONMENT
- FAITH
- HEALTH & WELL-BEING
- TOURISM
- YOUTH



As we celebrate this milestone, we thank all those who have profoundly contributed to the success of Community Finance Ireland and the lasting legacy of the organisation over its 25 years.

Founding members Fr. Myles Kavanagh (left) and Erskine Holmes (right) with former UCIT CEO Jonathan McAlpin and Board Member Seamus O'Prey.

2001
First loan in Northern Ireland – Moygashel Community Development Association



2007
First Loan in Republic of Ireland – Fort Dunree



2013
Awarded Northern Ireland Small Business Loan Fund Contract (NISBLF)

2016
Joined FEBEA



2017
Building Better Futures Fund (in partnership with Belfast Charitable Society & Building Change Trust)

2018
Awarded NISBLF II



2020
Rebranded as Community Finance Ireland

2020
CFI pivoted to supply the charity sector and social enterprise sector with vital Covid recovery grants in partnership with the Department for Communities. Over the course of 2020-2021, three grant schemes were managed by CFI

Launch of the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) in partnership with British Business Bank

2021
Moved into our new premises in Glengall Street, Belfast

Launched €/£10m All-Island Recovery Loan Fund



Launched €5m All-Island Sports Fund to Support Grassroots Clubs



2023
Launch of Hybrid Social Finance Loan in partnership with Rethink Ireland and Department of Rural and Community Development (RoI)



NetWorks23 launches in partnership with International Fund for Ireland and the Rural Community Network

2024
Hosted FEBEA Conference in Croke Park, Dublin



Launch of the FTC Fund in conjunction with the Department for Communities in NI

2025
Awarded NISBLF III



NetWorx25 launches in partnership with International Fund for Ireland and the Rural Community Network



925+
Clients across the island

£112m
Total value of loans disbursed

£/€4.63
of social & economic value is returned for every £/€1