



CRAOL
Community Radio Forum of Ireland Society Ltd.

CRAOL Achievement awards 2025

Entry to the CRAOL 2025 Achievement awards is open to all Craol Member Community Radio Stations in the Republic of Ireland who have a full BAI/CnaM broadcasting license or temporary 100/30-day license.

Full licensed Community Radio Station can submit **Three** entries- one from the Core Category, one from the Rotating Category and one from the Irish Language Category.

Temporary licensed stations can submit two entries. One from either the Core Category or the Rotating Category and one from the Irish Language Category.

Programmes/Activities must have occurred between **1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025**

Achievement Awards 2025



Key Dates

Friday
July 18th, 2025
Award submissions open

Friday
August 15th, 2025
Award Submissions close

Tuesday
October 27th, 2025, Awards
announced at the Craol Féile in The
Charleville Park Hotel, Charleville,
Co. Cork



Only stations and not individuals can put forward entries for the awards.

How to enter

Read the submission notes and FAQs in this document

Go to coral website - craol.ie

To begin your entry, click 'Enter,' select the Category and provide the information requested. Please address the criteria as specifically as possible.

Activities must have occurred

between 1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025

- ❖ **Once you've addressed the criteria, upload the required attachments.**
- ❖ **Only one entry per category per full licensed station can be submitted each year.**
- ❖ **Temporary licensed stations can submit one entry from either the Core Category or the rotating category and one from the Irish Language Category**

Please ensure the spelling and formatting of your station, programs and people's names are accurate as this is what we will use to print any certificates, etc.

When you have successfully submitted your applications this message will appear on the website:

Dear

You have entered the following application NAMED in the category NAMED

Thank you for your submission to the CRAOL Achievement Awards, the results will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in Charleville on Tuesday October 28th 2025

Awards Categories

Core Categories:

1. Social Benefit-Talk, Music or News and Current Affairs
2. Commissioned programmes.

Rotating categories

1. Access and Inclusion
2. Technical production values
3. Sustainability

Irish Language Category

1. Any Irish Language programming with a minimum 50% Irish

CORE AWARD CATEGORIES

You can submit an entry from either one of the Social Benefit Categories or the Commissioned Programme Category

1. Social Benefit. (See notes at end of document)

Social Benefits and Community Development are at the core of what Community Radio is about. This is what makes the sector unique and is the ethos we promote and strive to achieve. Your station can submit from either A, B, or C

a) Social Benefit (Music)

Community stations are obliged under the 2009 Act and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland Community Media Policy to provide a social benefit to their community. This can be achieved through a diversity of talk and discussion programmes. However, Craol recognises that much of the content of community radio consists of music programmes. We can explore how our music programmes can provide a social benefit to the community. This can be in many ways:

Through the programme being produced by a team (of more than one)

By a programme inviting local music enthusiasts on air to discuss the music.

Through the presenter displaying a growing media competence over many years of loyal volunteering.

Through the promotion of Irish artists and local talent.

b) Social Benefit (Talk)

Entries to this category are unrestricted about the type of programming involved. Social Benefit acts as a rich description of our work, offering stations wider scope in this area. Social Benefit application should be aligned with the six Social Benefits as outlined in the [BAI Community Media Policy](#) and the Social Benefits Framework as described in [Community Radio Delivering Social Benefit](#) booklet.

c) Social Benefit (News & Current Affairs)

Social Benefit 3 states: *Community members are informed and aware of what is happening around their community.* Social Benefit 4 states: *Community members are responding more effectively to issues—local to global— because they have access to diverse viewpoints and to more and better information.*

Community Stations deliver on these SBs through News and Current affairs programming, are core pillars of local community and voluntary action; are centres of local information and knowledge and are platforms for discussing and addressing social, economic, cultural, educational, health, environmental and other societal issues particularly at community and local levels.

Separate from the **Social Benefit Talk Category** the **News and Current Affairs Category** gives stations the opportunity to show how your station covers local News and Current Affairs, how your station engages with local development groups, NGOS, Local politicians, addresses misinformation and ensures that information is accurate and reliable.

Your submission can include news broadcasts, panel discussions, interviews and other news and current affairs related shows.

2. Commissioned programmes

Entries to this category must have been funded by an external body. (E.g., CnaM, CFI, VEC, Simon Cumber, Government Department etc). Assessment will not just be restricted to production quality, but also of the multiplier effect, what impact had a programme on community engagement, or on volunteers within a station, or on any aspect of station activities. In short, how did this programme support the development of community broadcasting? The programme may be the primary outcome of a project, or a part of a wider process. You select a representative sample.

ROTATING AWARD CATEGORIES

You can submit an entry from one of the following:

1. Access, diversity, and Inclusion

Entries to this category will show how stations promote access, diversity, and inclusion. How does your station ensure people in your community do not face barriers to participate as guests, join the station as volunteers, staff members or join boards or sub committees? How does your station raise awareness on the challenges people face in the community you serve? How can people access airtime to advocate for change and discuss issues of concern. Do minority groups have dedicated programme times on your schedule? This award recognises stations that fosters a culture of accessibility, diversity, and inclusivity, and engages in activities in the community, which demonstrates a clear strategy of inclusion of people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences.

2. Technical production values

Entries to this category will demonstrate creativity and excellent production values. This will showcase the audio quality, techniques used, audio recording and editing, use of sound fx, broadcast- this can include station Jingles, promos, and ads.

3. Sustainability

CRAOL was an original member of the Broadcasting Sustainability Network, which was founded at the turn of the decade. In 2022, a formal steering committee was formed, comprising 10 members from various parts of the broadcasting sector, two of whom represent CRAOL.

Community Radio stations are doing a lot to promote and enhance sustainability at their stations and in their communities. This category is to recognise and celebrate sustainability actions in our sector. Entries should demonstrate what your station does to demonstrate action under the following three headings.

Promote Best Practice:

How your station improved its performance on environmental and social issues

Galvanise Positive Action:

How your station inspires positive action across society on the sustainable development agenda.

Encourage Collaboration:

How your station works with external organisations and community groups to promote sustainability and how you give coverage to projects and initiatives in your area.

Irish Language Programmes Category

To promote Irish language programming Craol has introduced a stand-alone an Irish Language Category. Submissions to this category are in addition to the Social Benefit Category and Rotating Category so that means Stations that are submitting to this Category can also submit to the Social Benefits Category and the Rotating Category and if effect make 3 submissions.

Entries to this category should demonstrate stations commitment to Irish language content. All varieties of Irish Language Programming qualify (including bi-lingual with a minimum of 50% Irish Language). This submission should demonstrate how your station actively promotes the Irish Language, recruits Irish Language volunteers, engages with Irish Language groups, Schools etc. Programming has to be original and produced and broadcast by your station.

Standout Award- in 2021 Craol introduced a standout award that **may** be awarded to one entry from each category. This award is based on high-quality applications, high quality audio and the Judges deeming the applications had met the criteria and is an outstanding submission.

Preparing your Entry

All entries must adhere to the submission requirements as outlined here.

An Entry consists of five parts: 6 to 7 min recording, 20 second Edit of this recording for broadcast at Awards Event, completed online entry form, Station Logo in high resolution and 2 recent photos from your station.

1. A link or mp3 which directs us to an audio sample of the programme which is no longer than **7 minutes** and gives a flavour of the entered programme. The seven minutes of audio should reflect the statements made in the entry form. E.g., if you are talking about a wide range of people featuring in the programme, let us hear them. The seven minutes may be edited should you wish, to reflect these statements from various parts of the program
2. From your 7-minute Audio upload a **20 second edit** separately for use at awards Ceremony.
3. Complete an **online entry form (one per entry)** which addresses the above list of criteria for consideration. Please give concise information relating to the programme and why you have chosen to submit it.
4. Station **Logo** in High Resolution.
5. 2 recent **photos** from your station.

Checklist for entries:

REMEMBER:

- **7-minute max recording in mp3 format**
- **20 second edit from above recording for Broadcast at Awards**
- **Completed Application Form – one per category**
- **Station Logo in High Resolution**
- **2 recent photos from your station.**

Provide the name and email address for the person who will accept the award should the application be successful.

To enter, please fill out the application form on the [CRAOL Website](#)

How are the awards judged?

Adjudication is by an independent panel nominated by the Craol Coordinating Committee. The Craol Achievement Awards Judges have been selected for their experience and knowledge of Community Radio.

The judges will use a criteria and weighting system associated with:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Presentation and Quality of entry | Max 5 points |
| 2. Quality of Content | Max 5 points |
| 3. Technical and Audio Quality | Max 5 points |
| 4. Volunteer Participation and Access | Max 5 points |
| 5. Community Awareness and Engagement | Max 5 points |
| 6. Social Benefit Impacts | Max 5 points |
| 7. Team Building | Max 5 points |
| 8. Community Radio Ethos | Max 5 points |

Total Possible Score

40 points

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1-10 points | No award |
| 11-20 points | Bronze award |
| 21-30 points | Silver award |
| 31-40 points | Gold award |

The categories are split between four judges who work independently and score each submission on its merits. They are required to judge each entry in its entirety, subject to the entry's compliance with the rules. Judging will be based solely on the entry submitted, in an independent and objective manner.

All entries will be considered as 'Stand Alone' efforts. There will be no overall winner. **All judging decisions are final and Craol will not enter into any Correspondence.**

This is not a competition and stations are challenging themselves to excel and showcase their excellence.

And please remember if it's not in the entry, it can't be judged.

Submissions must be submitted by Friday August 15th 2025.

Submissions after that date will not be included

FAQ's

Who Can enter?

All full licensed stations who broadcast the programmes submitted on FM
All Temporary licensed stations who have broadcast the programmes on FM

Do I need my station's permission to enter?

Yes. Entries are from Stations not individuals and must be approved by station management.

Can we submit a program we did a few years ago?

No. All entries must be focused on broadcasts or other station or individual activities occurring between **1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025**.

When are entries due?

Entries must be received by **Friday August 15th, 2025**.

If our station received an award in a category last year, can we apply for the same category again?

Yes, but an entry will be deemed ineligible if the same content has previously received an award.

Can we enter the same program in multiple categories?

No. Entrants may not enter the same work in more than one category.

Can our station put multiple entries in one category?

No. Full licensed Community Radio Station can submit **Three** entries- one from the Core Category, one from the Rotating Category and one from the Irish Language Category.

Temporary licensed stations can submit **one** entry from either the Core Category or the Rotating Category and **one** entry from the Irish Language Category and must have been on air between **1st August 2024 and 31st July 2025**.

***A separate entry must be completed for each category**

What format does the audio upload need to be?

The accepted file type is: mp3 and must be no more than 7 minutes and ideally no less than 6 mins.

Does every entry need a 7-minute audio bite?

Yes, all entries related to programs must upload a 7-minute mp3 from the program/event.

Extra Tips

When completing entries, use the names of the nominated station, program initiative or individual exactly as they would appear on the Award.

Craol will not be responsible for incorrect spelling of names, programs, or stations.

Ensure your station name is consistent across your different entries to avoid confusion.

Select your strongest piece of audio that relates to the category of the entry showcasing what you have written in your submission form.

Look at the criteria for each category to ensure your entry is eligible.

Communicate within your station to ensure there is no overlap in submissions

Notes - Social Benefits

Definition of CR Social Benefits is: *“Benefits to individuals or collective actors in the community that enhance their lives socially, culturally or economically, or in terms of development, empowerment and/or well-being, that otherwise would not have come about”* (Community Radio Delivering Social Benefit, Seán O Siochrú, Nexus Research Cooperative, Dublin.)

SB 1: Individuals, especially minorities and those marginalised, are growing in confidence and creativity and/or reinforcing a sense of belonging, directly from engaging with the Station.

• **SB 2:** Individuals are enhancing their employment prospects, through gaining skills and confidence.

• **SB 3:** Community members are informed and aware of what is happening around their community.

• **SB 4:** Community members are responding more effectively to issues – local to global, because they have access to diverse viewpoints and to more and better information.

• **SB 5:** Collective actors (CBOs, NGOs etc.) are facilitated, and reinforced in their capacity, to achieve their goals.

• **SB 6:** The community sense of identity and cohesiveness is enhanced.

Access here, [Community Radio Delivering Social Benefit](#) – it provides a framework for the concept of social benefit