

Emma Smyth

From: Emma Smyth
Sent: 10 May 2021 14:03
To: Emma Smyth
Subject: FW: Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien announce €4.5 million to improve community facilities and sports clubs

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From: DRCD LCDCSupport [<mailto:LCDCSupport@drcd.gov.ie>]
Sent: 10 May 2021 08:11
Subject: FW: Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien announce €4.5 million to improve community facilities and sports clubs

Good morning Chief Officer,

Please see press release below which was issued yesterday morning relating to the opening of the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme. Feel free to share with your relevant stakeholders.

Kind regards,

Kathy

Kathy Parkinson

Department of Rural & Community Development

Sunday, 9 May 2021

Embargo until 0.01am Monday, May 10 2021



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development**

Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien announce €4.5 million to improve community facilities and sports clubs

- ***Funding to support local groups to re-open their facilities post Covid-19***
- ***Small grants for repairs and renovations, new equipment and safety upgrades***
- ***Community Enhancement Programme to focus on disadvantaged areas***
- ***Clubs to be assisted in purchasing new equipment and sports gear***

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, have today announced €4.5 million to support community groups and sports clubs impacted by Covid-19.

The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) will provide small capital grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

Sports clubs will also be given financial support to purchase equipment and sports gear, as well as to carry out minor upgrades that will benefit its members.

The grants will range from a few hundred euro up to €10,000, however, exceptions will be made depending on the application.

The funding may be used to carry out necessary renovations and repairs or to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and so on.

The Community Enhancement Programme, which to date has supported over 8,000 projects, places a focus on supporting groups in disadvantaged areas.

The key theme of this year's programme is supporting groups as they re-open facilities which have been closed due to Covid-19.

As the grants are relatively small, this programme may appeal to groups that are not eligible for the €10 million Covid Stability Fund, which was launched last week.

Announcing the funding today, Minister Humphreys said:

"This funding is about giving a helping hand to our local groups and sports clubs, which are the lifeblood of our communities.

"As we come out of Covid-19, so many of these organisations will incur specific costs relating to the re-opening of their facilities.

"This could range from purchasing a new set of tables and chairs to repairing a leak in the roof or renovating the kitchen facility.

"Sports clubs will also be supported in terms of purchasing new equipment or sports gear which will improve the experience of their members.

"These grants may be small in nature. But I know they will go a long way in helping thousands of great community organisations and clubs the length and breadth of the country.

"I would encourage all interested groups to get in touch with their Local Community Development Committee that administers the programme in their area.

“Supporting local communities to shape their future is a key focus of the Government’s new rural development policy, Our Rural Future. The funding I am announcing today will benefit every single county and ensure that important small scale, ground-up projects can be delivered by local communities for local communities.”

Also announcing the funding today, Minister O’Brien said:

“The CEP is a really practical support to smaller community groups and facilities that are active at a grassroots level. This past year has, once again, shown the importance of a vibrant Community and Voluntary sector.

“The efforts of local community groups & volunteers throughout the pandemic has been immense and, as we recover from the pandemic, we are conscious that something different is needed for many groups this year, and that is why with the CEP this year there is a focus on grants towards reopening facilities.”

The CEP was launched for the first time in 2018 by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Between 2018 and the end of 2020 the CEP has funded over 8,000 projects across the country.

The CEP was the result of the first significant exercise in the streamlining of schemes and programmes carried out by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It combined two existing schemes so that funding is now provided to improve facilities in a manner that is more flexible and responsive at a local level.

The CEP provides vital support to community groups in order to help them improve their facilities. It supports small-scale funding for projects which range from purchasing lawnmowers and IT equipment to minor renovations to buildings. Ultimately the Programme responds to local needs and therefore it also provides some funding towards larger projects where needed.

In order to allow flexibility, the Department is not setting a national closing date, but will allow each LCDC to set its own, to best suit its area. The Department will require that all closing dates are no later than 16th July 2021. Groups should check with their LCDC for further details.

For details on the 2021 funding in each Local Authority area please see the below table.

Local Authority	Amount
Carlow	€134,206
Cavan	€134,757
Clare	€139,257
Cork City	€153,703

Cork	€156,299
Donegal	€159,461
Dublin City	€212,306
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	€142,108
Fingal	€150,521
Galway City	€132,455
Galway County	€143,401
Kerry	€142,409
Kildare	€148,013
Kilkenny	€136,319
Laois	€136,524
Leitrim	€129,223
Limerick	€152,942
Longford	€132,385
Louth	€145,542
Mayo	€145,203
Meath	€142,893
Monaghan	€132,571
Offaly	€138,550
Roscommon	€133,301
Sligo	€134,084
South Dublin	€169,399
Tipperary	€149,690
Waterford	€144,499
Westmeath	€136,571
Wexford	€150,065
Wicklow	€141,343
Total	€4,500,000

ENDS

Contact:

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Notes to editor:

- Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) is targeted towards enhancing facilities in disadvantaged communities. It provides capital grants to community groups in a manner consistent with each areas Local Economic and Community Plan.

- The Community Enhancement Programme was launched for the first time in 2018. Between 2018 and the end of 2020 the CEP has provided funding to over 8,000 projects across the country. A list of 2020 projects is provided on the following link: [Community Enhancement Programme reports](#)
- The funding provided to each Local Authority area is outlined in the above table. The funding has been allocated by providing a baseline amount to each area and allocating the remainder based on the relative population and disadvantage level in each area. This methodology uses census figures and the Pobal Hasse deprivation index.
- The funding is administered locally by [Local Community Development Committees](#) (LCDCs) across the country, with support from their Local Authority. Applications for funding can be made to the relevant LCDC. Contact details for LCDCs are available [here](#).

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