



11th December, 2019

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 49763/19

To ask the Minister for Health the procedure by which community based addiction organisations can apply to be recognised as a section 39 body; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The HSE have available a "Guide for Small Agencies", this outlines how organisations may apply for Section 39 funding and is available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/non-statutory-sector/guide-for-small-agencies-version-5-april-2019.doc>.

The extract below from the introduction section provides information on the application process.

The objective of the HSE is to use the public exchequer resources allocated in the most beneficial, effective and efficient manner to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public. It is legally obliged to account for all expenditure on health and personal social services and to ensure value for money (VFM) in service delivery.

Application processes exist for agencies to apply to the HSE for funding to support services which seek to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public, however it should be noted that funding is limited and most will be committed to existing services.

Specific funding streams exist which may be open to new applications annually

1. National Lottery

For grants provided under the National Lottery scheme, the HSE advertise the availability of the funding, the application criteria and process in the local and national press on an annual basis.



All the applications are co-ordinated and assessment criteria are utilised to prioritise these within the available funding.

2. Development funding for specific services.

For new service developments, service specifications are agreed and where applicable, there may be local partnership fora to prioritise those clients with an assessed need for services within the available funding. The HSE then manage the process for the delivery of the services to the prioritised clients. Various options are considered including:

- Supplying the service directly through HSE facilities;
- Tendering for the provision of the service;
- Utilising a preferred supplier if the client group are best served by this route and costs are within market norms;
- Application route from existing providers.

3. Local Community Health Organisation area grants

These grants may be available annually within a community health organisation area, and may also include “in kind” supports such as accommodation, training, possible secondment of staff/ provision of assistance and/or advice by HSE staff on work the non-statutory agency is undertaking. These Grants are made each year however many are paid on a recurring basis. These are open to community groups/non statutory agencies who are providing non acute services which support improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public.

Organisations may make application to the HSE through either their Local Community Health Organisation Area or the relevant national care group division. Contact details are available on the HSE Website – www.hse.ie under Find a Health Service;

These applications will then be considered, within the context of the prioritised needs of the population, and the availability of funding. While the criteria below is not exhaustive, the application process will include an assessment of:

- Evidence of performance in previous years;
- Capacity to deliver;
- A validation of the identified need for the services/activities using evidence based justification;
- The proposed service or activity should have explicit objectives on throughput and outcomes;
- The extent to which the current services provided by the non-statutory agency meets current Service Plan priorities and/or strategic directions of the HSE;
- The extent of demonstrated commitment to relevant quality standards;
- The outcome of previous evaluation of services or activities provided or engaged in by the non-statutory agency;
- A thorough examination of estimates/financial costings will take place and the extent to which the application represents value for money and the financial performance of the provider will be assessed;
- The adequacy of governance and accountability arrangements, including adequacy of internal audit and internal controls commensurate with the nature and scale of the non-statutory agency’s operations.

Where the grant provided is of a capital nature, the non-statutory provider must formally agree to engage in the HSE process to protect the State's interest and the HSE shall not progress the capital funding application until this commitment is formally obtained from the provider in question.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist