



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

www.hse.ie
@hselive

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

28th July 2022

Deputy Catherine Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39268/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the current funding available for the technical aids scheme by CHO in tabular form; the funding drawn down between 2018 to 2021; and the eligibility criteria to access this funding.

- Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 39268/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In the context of answering your question we have taken the term ‘technical aids’ that you use as being one that refers to our schemes for the provision of Aids & Appliances. The expenditure by the various CHOs for the years 2018-21 and the budget for 2022 is outlined in the table below.

Aids & Appliances spend 2018-21						
	Euro					Budget
CHO	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
1	8,007,968	7,753,265	7,975,517	8,975,701	7,129,509	
2	4,219,706	4,317,811	5,019,445	5,164,799	5,009,855	
3	6,088,019	3,686,466	3,913,847	7,483,922	3,268,122	
4	9,270,709	8,893,939	8,132,066	7,478,388	6,820,225	
5	10,482,567	10,691,536	11,072,246	11,305,356	10,165,010	
6	9,267,831	10,111,609	8,753,093	9,576,434	9,412,860	
7	19,517,585	23,178,732	19,533,437	21,354,350	21,340,583	
8	8,837,219	8,485,793	8,695,678	10,766,994	9,033,843	
9	18,320,260	19,290,613	18,545,527	20,754,090	21,352,579	
Total	80,954,939	87,923,971	77,925,733	86,928,241	84,498,743	

Community Funded Schemes is a collective name for all of the many products, supports, supplies, appliances and aids that are provided through community services. Aids and Appliances encompasses a significant proportion of these products and appliances, which number in their many thousands. The actual products and services provided are subject to ongoing assessment and change in line with developments in clinical practice and, as new products are developed and become available to the market. The products are multiple, varied, and diverse, as they cover the full range of aids or appliances that can offer assistance in the



community management of individuals with any one or more of the myriad of different medical conditions and impairments that can afflict the members of our community.

As such, the criteria for accessing aids and appliances are many and varied and relate to the particular service, aid or appliance that is being requested. Criteria can be based on; clinical need, demand, General Medical Service's eligibility, compassionate grounds, LTI eligibility, priority listing, budget availability, historical local practices, or a combination of these criteria. The eligibility criteria while common in many instances, are specific to the particular service, aid, or appliance that is being requested.

In general, the eligibility for aids and appliances conforms to those for other health services, and were set out in the Health Act 1970. This act provides for two categories of eligibility for all persons ordinarily resident in the state, i.e. full eligibility (medical card) and limited eligibility (all others). Entitlement to a medical card is determined mainly by reference to means, with provision for discretion to grant a card in cases of 'undue hardship' where the income guidelines are exceeded. All other persons who are 'ordinarily resident' in the state have limited eligibility.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán McArt".

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations