

22nd of March 2023

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re PQ: 14182/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on the resource allocation and spending to date by his Department, on specific measures to address addiction amongst Travellers and Roma; and if he will outline of where that spend is directed, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Ó Ríordáin,

The Health Service Executive have 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 €2 million Community Services Enhancement Fund was launched in 2022 to enhance community-based drug and alcohol services. The fund is part of the strategic priority to enhance access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community in the National Drugs Strategy 2021-2025.

In 2022, funding was allocated as follows:

- CHOs 2, 3, 5 & 6 each received €150,000
- CHOs 1, 4, 7, 8 & 9 each received €180,000

From 2023, CSEF is allocated per Community Healthcare Organisation (CHOs) as follows:

- CHOs 2, 3, 5 & 6 will each receive €200,000
- CHOs 1, 4, 7, 8 & 9 will each receive €240,000

Community Healthcare Organisations are required to allocate and ring-fence 25 per cent of their funding allocations for initiatives to increase access to and the provision of drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTI+ community.

The table below details services specific to Travellers and ethnic minorities, including Roma, which have been funded under the CSEF to date:

Addiction Services for Travellers & Ethnic Minorities funded under CSEF as of February '23	
CHO1	Cavan Traveller Movement
	Young Men's Programme (Sligo Travellers Project)
CHO3	Ana Liffey Drug Project (Outreach to the Traveller Community and the LGBTI+ Community - 2 Project Workers)
CHO5	Traveller Substance Misuse Outreach Pilot Project (Ossary Youth, Kilkenny)
CHO6	Interagency Pilot Stabilisation Programme targeting members of minority communities (Bray, Wicklow Town, Dun Laoghaire)
CHO7	Dublin 12 Drug and Alcohol Task Force Minorities Communities Engagement Initiative
CHO9	WISE Programme aimed at LGBTI+, Ethnic Minorities and Women who use drugs and alcohol in the Balbriggan/Swords area (North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force)
	Anti-racism training for North Inner City and CHO area (AIDS Care Education & Training)

Further addiction spending outside of the CSEF is detailed in the table below:

Organisations	Addiction-Specific Service/Resource Funded	Annual/Global Allocation
Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	1 Project Worker	€52,697
Exchange House Ireland National Traveller Services	2 Project Workers	€92,036
Bray Travellers Community Development Group	1 Manager, 1 Project Worker, Programme Costs	€113,105
Pavee Point	Drugs Programme	€104,000
Finglas Addiction Support Team	Social Inclusion Outreach Worker	€48,062
TravAct Coolock	Drug Peer Worker	€66,200
Coolmine, Balbriggan	Drugs Traveller Co-ordinator	€40,000
Mid West Traveller Regional Drug and Alcohol Network	Educational Harm Reduction Advice in relation to Substance Use	Funded through the Mid West Regional Drugs Task Force

In 2021, 3% of all cases treated for drug use in Ireland were Irish Travellers and the overall number of Travellers receiving treatment increased by 14.8% between 2014 and 2021, according to the as of yet unpublished *Drug Insights Report 3: Drug Treatment in Ireland: Key Patterns and Trends 2014-2021*.

Should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Eamon Keenan
National Clinical Lead-Addiction Services
HSE National Social Inclusion Office