



Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

25th June 2024

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pauline.tully@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 26336/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth is he will provide a list of the successful applicants to the Childrens' Disability Services grant scheme; the funding each of these groups were awarded, in tabular form.

HSE Response

The Children's Disability Services Grant Fund was open to organisations, including community groups and service providers, with the aim of supporting children on a waiting list for Children's Disability Network Team services and adding value to existing HSE children's disability services.

There was a huge response from voluntary and community groups and private agencies to our call for submissions for the Grant Fund, with over 500 applications for funding, ranging from proposals for several thousand euro to larger projects seeking up to three million euro over three years. The total funding sought amounted to almost €45 million.

The very high number of applications meant that there was strong competition for finite funds.

A CDS Grant Scheme Evaluation Panel was formed to assess all applications based on the following criteria:

- Quality and coherence of proposal;
- Contribution to wellbeing of children and families;
- Potential lasting impact;
- Capacity and sustainability of providers to deliver person-centred services and comply with standards;
- Value for money.

The Evaluation Panel also agreed the following:



- 1) The purpose of the fund was to set up a framework of service providers from which CDNMs would draw down supports for children waitlisted for their CDNT whilst they wait to receive CDNT services. Satisfying this objective would therefore be a primary consideration. This ruled out proposals which were not open to new children being referred by a CDNMs, such as a school wishing to enhance services for their students or an additional service for current CDNT or respite service users.
- 2) The initiative was primarily for children waitlisted for the CDNT rather than children actively attending the CDNT.
- 3) Many proposals either referred to fees or did not make clear that they would offer their service free to families. A CDNMs could not refer a child and family to a service that would require them to pay a fee.

As a first step, the members of the Evaluation Panel individually reviewed applications in their assigned categories and made a preliminary recommendation as to whether the proposal should be shortlisted. The Panel then met to go through each application and decide jointly whether to shortlist.

The main reasons for proposals not being shortlisted included the following:

- Not open to children on a CDNT Waiting List;
- Would require parents to pay a fee for services;
- Poor value for money;
- Lack of governance and risk e.g. sensory equipment with no clinical oversight, groups or programmes which would require prior assessment by a health professional;
- Insufficient information.

Due to the sheer volume of applications and the additional administrative work involved in co-ordinating and collating the proposals, we had to revise the anticipated time-frame for the assessment process and the award of funding to successful proposals.

The Evaluation Panel was pleased to see the diverse and innovative services and supports that local and national groups are providing for children with disabilities and was impressed with the range of opportunities they give for children with disabilities to participate in social and community life.

A shortlist had to be drawn from the large number of projects and initiatives that we received. Please see Appendix 1 for the shortlisted projects.

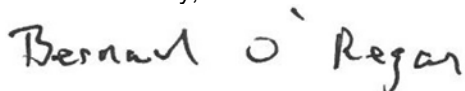
A total of 52 projects throughout the Republic of Ireland were chosen to receive funding under the Children's Disability Services Grant Fund, with a number of the larger projects to be funded over a three year cycle.

Applicants that were not shortlisted to receive funding were informed that their application was not successful on this occasion, but that we would keep their proposal on file in the event that funding for a similar scheme becomes available in the future.

We have also contacted shortlisted applicants to inform them that we are currently in discussions with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to agree the final allocation to the grant fund. We hope to have a decision shortly and will then be contacting them again to outline the process of engagement with the HSE around the drawdown of funding to be allocated and the financial and governance requirements in relation to the delivery of projects.

We would like to sincerely thank all of the applicants for their interest in the Children's Disability Services Grant Fund and for the work that went into preparing their respective proposals. Regrettably, with limited funds at our disposal, we were not able to fund as many of the projects that we would have liked to support.

Yours Sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director
National Disability Team



Appendix 1

Organisation	Title/Description of Project	Category	Funding Sought
Forus Training	Create a QQI level 5 course in Challenging Behaviours	Behavioural Support	€22,950.0
St Hilda's Services	Provision of seasonal camps coinciding with school closures	Behavioural Support	€193,470.0
Deirdre Kearney Behavioural Psychologist Ltd.	Positive behavioural supports for children experiencing distress	Behavioural Support	€487,800.0
Paediatric Programme, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin	Remote tele-rehabilitation (TR) group intervention for children and young people (CYP) with acquired neurological disabilities	Clinical Specialist	€135,000.0
AsIAm	Educational support programmes	Clinical Specialist	€337,027.29
The Crann Centre	Additional dietetic clinic for both children and adults with neurophysical disabilities	Clinical Specialist	€11,417
Trim Family Resource Centre	Disability support workers and facilitators for the Parents Support Group set up in 2021	Disability Support Work	€180,030.0
Coolock Children's Disability Network Team - St Michaels House	Therapeutic equipment lending library for children and their families with complex needs	Equipment	€11,600.0
Klaine Childcare Ltd	Outdoor equipment for Preschool, afterschool and Saturday club for children with disabilities	Equipment	€24,675
Derg Athletics Club	Programmes designed to meet the needs of neurodiverse children	Extracurricular activities	€10,758.00
Sailing Into Wellness CLG	'Inclusion Sailing Program' to the HSE Children's Disability service	Extracurricular activities	€156,888.00
Clare Local Sports Partnership	Weekly activity sessions for children with disabilities	Extracurricular activities	€46,020



Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership - Wicklow County Council	Life Skills programme for children and teenagers with a disability or neurodiverse diagnosis.	Extracurricular activities	€39,000
Crinkle Sports & Recreation Centre	Physical activity tailored programme for people with disabilities	Extracurricular activities	24,972.00
Inspire Child Development Centre	Social skills group for autistic children between 3 and 6	Extracurricular activities	€50,250.0
Avista CLG	Avista Den' an online resource to support and empower children/young people with disabilities and their families wellbeing and health	IT	€25,000.0
Friends of Dean and Padraig	Support classes for parents, carer's and children	Occupational Therapy	€25,000.0
Pebbles Occupational Therapy	Occupational Therapy (OT) group projects	Occupational Therapy	€192,945.0
Special Hands Activity Group	'SPARK Camp' additional respite for children, families and care givers	Occupational Therapy	€127,080.0
Shooting Stars Occupational Therapy	Mastering Mealtimes' an Occupational Therapy programme for parents of picky eaters	Occupational Therapy	€51,199
Hand in Hand Children's Occupational Therapy Ltd	Occupational Therapy Intensive Program	Occupational Therapy	€22,500.0
Autism Supports	Training and consultancy for parents, children, professionals and adults in a neuro affirming manner.	Occupational Therapy	€86,313.20
Clondalkin Autism Parents Support Network - Buddy Club	Provide an Occupational Therapy Club for children.	Occupational Therapy	€4,520.0
Little Stars Arch Club Citywest	Provide an Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist at Little Stars Arch Club for autistic children aged between 3-7 years	Occupational Therapy	€5,000.0
Sarah O'Flanagan Training and Consultancy	Provision of a Psychology-led parent intervention for parents of neurodivergent children	Parents/Carers/Families	€24,500.0



Positive Behaviour Support Cavan	Deliver a comprehensive parents workshop to equip parents with essential skills for better understanding and managing their children's behaviour through a positive behaviour support framework	Parents/Carers/Families	25,000
Special Needs Active Parents Monaghan (S.N.A.P)	Provide a combination of activities for children with disabilities which support their physical, social, communication and psychologically needs.	Parents/Carers/Families	€33,770
AR Occupational Therapy Limited	Two part training workshops for parents and carer's	Parents/Carers/Families	€18,000.0
Helping Hands Physiotherapy	"Bridging The Gap" Project	Physiotherapy	€345,000.0
The No Barriers Foundation CLG- RCN: 20206339	Proposes an innovative, multidisciplinary and paediatric service with the aim to provide excellent levels of clinical service intervention	Physiotherapy	€3,072,700.0
Finn Valley Leisure Centre	Swim lesson for people with Down Syndrom, Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Spina Bifida	Physiotherapy	€34,400
Health Hub Professionals NI	To provide Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy and Occupational Hand Therapy with splintin for children with disabilities who reside in Donegal	Physiotherapy	£302,001.44
Westport Family and Community Resource Centre	Play Therapy Service	Play/Music/Art Therapy	€24,300
Cavan Monaghan Parents Committee for children in need of Disability Services	Music Therapy	Play/Music/Art Therapy	€7,580.0
Family Resource Centre National Forum (FRCNF)	Therapeutic interventions for Children with disabilities	Play/Music/Art Therapy	€300,000
Artane Coolock Family Resource Centre clg	Play Therapy for children with disabilities	Play/Music/Art Therapy	€31,000.0



Tree Owls Play Therapy	Play therapy and Psychotherapy in Trim and Tullamore	Psychology	€23,040
National Rehabilitation Hospital	Therapeutic psychological support, including positive behaviour support, to children with acquired brain injury (ABI) and spinal injury	Psychology	€23,000.0
Active Connections	Extend existing model of based therapeutic respite to new locations in Cork, Kildare and Wicklow.	Respite	€446,250
Hand in Hand Children's Occupational Therapy Service Ltd	Sensory Motor Program supporting the child and family	Sensory	€75,000.0
The Sunflower Clinic	Provide a number of Speech and Language Therapy programmes addressing specific needs based on client need	Speech & Language Therapy	€71,280
Trinity College Dublin	Propose to set up an innovative speech and language therapy clinic, The Trinity SPARK clinic, to provide specialist evidence-based assessments and interventions for children with significant speech-language needs	Speech & Language Therapy	€175,035.7
Avista	Interdisciplinary Clinical supports for children with a complex disability, and their families	Speech & Language Therapy	€80,100
Equine Assisted Learning Sessions	Equine assisted learning sessions	Equine Therapy	€64,500
Down Syndrome Ireland – Louth Meath Branch	Deliver a broad range of advocacy and information services for the families of children with Down syndrome	Equine Therapy	€48,360
Down Syndrome Centre North East	Occupational Therapy service for children with Down Syndrome aged between 0 and 18.	Occupational Therapy	€67,565.40
Down Syndrome Centre North East	Music Therapy service for children with DS aged between 0 and 18.	Play/Music/Art Therapy	€74,818.00



Down Syndrome Centre North East	Parental Support service for families with children with DS aged between 0 and 18.	Psychology	€72,450.00
Down Syndrome Centre North East	School aged programmes and social groups for children with DS aged between 5 and 18.	Social Care/Work	€61,010.40
Down Syndrome Centre North East	Speech and Language Therapy service for children with DS aged between 0 and 18.	Speech & Language Therapy	€118,058.40
Spraoi agus Spórt	Proposes an expanded, comprehensive package of services for children and young people with disabilities in Inishowen	Play/Music/Art Therapy	€210,000
Down Syndrome Ireland Galway Branch	Recruit a Speech and Language Therapist.	Speech & Language Therapy	€171,600.00

