



Oifig an Stiúrthóir 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.

31st March 2025

Deputy Pearse Doherty,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pearse.doherty@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Doherty,

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

PQ: 46579/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if any further clarity can be provided at this time to explain why it has taken so long to administer the children's disability service grant fund, especially given as this was supposed to be emergency funding in light of the significant gap in services in Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 7874/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the reason the process to award emergency funding to organisations in Donegal through the children's disability grant fund, announced in November 2023, with the successful applicants announced in June 2024, has taken so long; if funds have not been awarded, when it will be awarded to all successful applicants; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

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.



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.

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.

The HSE contacted shortlisted applicants to inform them that we were in discussions with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to agree the final allocation to the grant fund.

On 24th March 2025, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth announced that it has secured sanction for the €8 million Grant Fund to cover the costs in full.

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.

The HSE will engage with successful applicants around the drawdown of funding and the financial and governance requirements in relation to the delivery of projects.

Yours Sincerely,

**Bernard O'Regan,
Assistant National Director,
Access and Integration,
Disability Services**

