



CLÁR 2022 SCHEME OUTLINE

MEASURE 1: DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FACILITIES & AMENITIES

Background

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population. The funding works in conjunction with local/Agency and other Departmental funding programmes and on the basis of locally identified priorities.



CLÁR Programme for 2022

The CLÁR Programme allocation has increased from €5.5m to €7 million in 2022. The 2022 programme will be delivered through three separate Measures as follows:

- Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities
- Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders
Transport
- Measure 3: 'Our Islands'

This Scheme outline refers to Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities which are delivered via Local Authorities (LAs).

Timelines

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| Scheme launch | 24th February 2022 |
| Applications due | 6th May 2022 |
| Funding awarded (indicative) | July 2022 |
| Projects completed and drawn down | April 2023 |

Progression of Projects

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority (LA) to ensure that the project will be completed and funding drawn down within the above timelines. LAs will be asked to report on the progression of approved projects on an interim basis.

The Department may grant an extension under exceptional circumstances. Any extension request must be submitted in writing and in advance of the deadline stating the reason for the extension and the new completion/drawdown dates. The Department reserves the right to allow or deny any extension request.

Application Process for 2022

The 2022 programme will allow for applications to be submitted to the LA from schools, community groups and Local Development Companies under this Measures. Community Groups can include local sporting organisations where the infrastructure being supported through the application is for the benefit of the community generally (not just the sporting organisation) and is made **freely available to all members of the community without any additional restrictions or requirements being imposed**.

Up to **15 project** applications may be selected by the LA for onward submission to the Department for its consideration.

The proposed projects should be of sufficient quality, in line with the scheme outline, and consistent with developmental planning at a local level, including LECPs and town plans.

Applications under this Measure may include a number of different elements in respect of a single facility up to the maximum funding limit of €50,000.

The Local Authority is required to submit a 'Project Application' form (MS Word) in respect of each individual project. The LA must ensure that the forms are fully completed and comply with the 2022 Scheme Outline. In particular, the LA must ensure that funded facilities are publicly accessible to all with clear arrangements to

insure and manage the facility. Any facilities funded must be open to the public without a requirement to be a member of a club, enrolled in a school etc. **Facilities on school grounds must be open to the public outside school hours.**

In addition to these, a completed 'Application Overview' (MS Excel), is required giving details of all projects and **indicating a priority ranking** in the context of need at a local level, planning etc.

Evidence of landowner consent, planning permission, match funding, etc. is not required at the time of application **but must be in place** and available to the Department or its agents on request for a period of 6 years from the date of application.

The Department may not be in a position to follow up regarding missing documentation or incomplete application forms. Incomplete application forms may not be considered.

Applications should be submitted directly to the Department at CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie by 6th May 2022.

Assessment Criteria

In assessing applications a number of factors will be considered including the LA indicated order of priority; the range, mix, quality and impact of proposed projects; previous funding provided, and other relevant considerations.

The quality and clarity of the completed application form, and the information provided in respect of the need and rationale for the project, are particularly important in selecting the successful projects.

The number of projects approved in each County may be determined with reference to the size of the CLÁR area in the County relative to the overall size of the County.

Project Delivery

It is expected that the LA will take a lead role in the delivery of many of the projects approved by the Department. However, LDCs may, with the agreement of the LA and the relevant community applicants, be permitted to take on the project delivery phase.

In such cases the Department will enter into a contract directly with the LDC and not the LA. Projects to be delivered by the LDC should be clearly identified on the Application Overview and Project Application Form.

It is the responsibility of the party entering into contract with the Department, as appropriate, to meet any shortfall arising out of any project non-compliance.

The Department is encouraging and promoting an enhancement of biodiversity when reinstating/landscaping areas e.g. native pollinator plants.

All projects must conform with [public procurement guidelines](#).

Eligible Costs

Applications should detail the eligible costs associated with the proposed project. Please note only items of a **capital** nature, integral to the project, are eligible.

All administration costs/professional fees associated with the proposed project should be kept to a minimum and be clearly detailed on the Application Overview. Such costs will be eligible up to a maximum of **10%** of the overall project costs.

Grant Payment Arrangements

Funding may be drawn down in phases in respect of each project individually or collectively;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% on completion of at least 50% of the project, and |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% when the project has been fully completed. |

Drawdown requests for payment must only be submitted by the LA/LDC when the LA/LDC **have issued payment** and the relevant works **have been completed**. It is not acceptable to submit a drawdown request to the Department if invoices etc. remain unpaid by either the community group and/or the LA/LDC.

Eligible Applicants:

Schools, Community Groups, Local Development Companies, Local Authorities.

Selection of Projects:

The measure will be implemented via the LAs. Projects proposed to the Department by the LAs must be selected on the basis of:

- being located in a CLÁR area
- an application by a community organisation, school or LDC to the LA
- evidence that all necessary permissions are in place
- evidence, where applicable, that ownership/minimum 5 year lease is in place
- full estimated costs including administration/professional fees
- evidence that match funding is in place
- being open to the public without appointment, and that the necessary insurance is in place
- a single facility (not multiple locations)
- clear evidence of need
- relevance to the LECP/other plans

The LA must ensure that funded facilities must be publicly accessible with clear arrangements to insure and manage the facility. Any facilities funded under Measure 2 must be open to the public without a requirement to be a member of a club, enrolled in a school etc. Facilities on school grounds must be open to the public outside school hours. LAs must ensure that facilities funded are operational for at least 5 years.

Rate of Aid

A minimum grant of €5,000 and maximum grant of €50,000 will apply to this measure. The maximum limits per intervention as listed in the table above will apply. The scheme will provide up to 90% of the cost. The remaining 10% or balance of the cost should be provided through local authority/community/other resources. Philanthropic contributions will be accepted as full or part of match funding costs.

Please note that match funding cannot come from other DRCD Schemes.

Types of Intervention

Measure 1 will support a variety of capital interventions provided that they contribute to the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible Community Recreation Facilities.

The list below provides an indication of the types of interventions that may be supported, but is not exhaustive:

- Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs)/Astro-Turf Facilities
- Skateboard Parks
- Playgrounds
- Handball Alleys
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Community Gyms
- Community Cinemas
- Sensory Gardens
- Community Gardens
- Outdoor Bowling Areas
- Walking / Running Tracks
- Outdoor Toilet Facilities
- Car Parking
- Public Lighting

Measure 1 applications can also include small scale renovation works to community facilities e.g. to convert into suitable meeting areas and community spaces for community groups such as youth clubs and Men's/Women's Sheds (**Note: a maximum of 5 of the 15 projects** submitted by a Local Authority under Measure 1 can involve renovation works on community buildings).

In addition, Measure 1 will support projects which develop and enhance access to unique local heritage sites and/or areas of natural beauty in local communities e.g. walkways to important local sites.

All newly developed community facilities and amenities funded under the programme must be disability-friendly.

The application form must clearly outline the need and rationale for the interventions put forward.

Ineligible Projects

Taking into consideration the high levels of funding in previous years for School/Community Safety Measures and funding available under other programmes, the 2022 measures and interventions have now been updated to allow for alternative projects to be funded under the Programme.

For 2022, the following interventions will not be funded:

- Works to current school buildings
- Footpaths
- Flashing amber safety lights and safety signs including digital speed safety signs
- Road markings
- Pedestrian crossings
- Bus shelters

Funding for safety works at schools and the provision of footpaths is available for Local Authorities under both the Safe Routes to School Programme and the Active Travel Programme operated by the Department of Transport.

Funding Conditions for Rural Schemes funded under the Department of Rural and Community Development.

All expenditure registered through the Department's Rural Schemes i.e. Town and Village Renewal Scheme, CLÁR, Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will be subject to the terms of the Public Spending Code which can be found at <http://publicspendingcode.per.gov.ie/>.

In addition to this, the requirements outlined below will apply to all funding approved through those schemes. The need for adherence to all of the requirements will be reflected in the contractual agreement between the Department of Rural and Community Development and the grantee approved for funding under the scheme.

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| 1. | Projects are expected to commence and be completed in line with the timelines set out in the relevant Scheme Outline. |
| 2. | The Department may de-commit funding allocated to projects under the Scheme where the project is not completed within the time specified, and where the express agreement of the Department to extend the funding arrangement has not been agreed in advance. |
| 3. | The grant funding for the approved project will be provided from the Department of Rural and Community Development's capital budget. Administration and/or professional costs associated with the proposed project, where allowed for in the Scheme Outline, should be kept to a minimum. These costs must be clearly documented in the application and are only permitted up to a maximum of 10% of the overall project costs. |
| 4. | A cash contribution as set out in the relevant Scheme Outline is required. The grantee will be required to provide confirmation that the cash contribution is in place and retain a record of the source of the cash contribution. |
| 5. | Projects must be completed in full in order to drawdown the full grant amount. Where it is established that a project has not been completed, the Department may request the grantee to repay any funding received on the |

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| | project. Any changes to the proposed project must be advised and agreed with the Department in advance of the change being implemented. |
| 6. | Where an element of the approved project is not carried out as per the project application, grant funding may be reduced to reflect the amended project. |
| 7. | If the project involves works on buildings or lands that are not in the ownership of the grantee, a minimum 5 year lease must be in place from date of project completion. |
| 8. | In the case of funding allocated to enterprises or facilities (i.e. community centre, hubs, vehicles under CLÁR etc.), it is a requirement that they must operate as funded for a minimum of 5 years following release of the final stage of funding, otherwise funding may have to be repaid. Where they do not operate as funded this must be advised and agreed with the Department in advance. |
| 9. | All appropriate financial, Public Procurement and accounting rules and regulations must be complied with and each grantee will fully account for the funding received in a timely manner. |
| 10. | Full and accurate documentation to support all expenditure should be maintained and accessible by Department officials for audit purposes at all times and for a period of six years from the date of completion of the project. |
| 11. | Grantees will acknowledge the support of Project 2040 / Department of Rural and Community Development/ Government of Ireland, and any other applicable sources of funding (as identified in the relevant Funding Agreement) in all public announcements, advertising and signage, as appropriate, relating to the project. In addition, the Department may seek to use the project in the broader promotion of its policies. |
| 12. | Grantees will provide any reports and information relating to the project as may reasonably be requested by the Department of Rural and Community Development from time to time. |
| 13. | On-going monitoring and evaluation of the project outputs and outcomes should take place in the context of assessing the impact of the project. Grantees will be expected to collect appropriate data to facilitate this learning on an on-going basis. On request, a brief report (1-2 pages) on |

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| | the outputs and outcomes of the project funded should be completed and made available to the Department. |
| 14. | Each grantee, will provide a contact point/points to the Department to facilitate payment and information requests. The Department should be updated on any changes to contact personnel in a timely manner. |
| 15. | A checklist confirming compliance with funding conditions relating to the grant aid will be required upon project completion. |

Non-Compliance with the conditions as outlined or any additional stipulations agreed during contract negotiations may result in the requirement to refund part or all of the grant aid awarded.

Queries

Any queries should be submitted to CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie.