

**CLÁR 2019 Scheme Outline**

**Local Authority Measures: 1, 2 and 3(c)**

**Background**

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local/Agency and other Departmental funding programmes and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

**Funding Allocation for 2019**

There is an allocation of €5 million in total for 2019 under 3 Measures:

CLÁR 2019 will provide funding under the following measures:

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measure (per 2018)

Measure 2: Play Areas (including MUGAs) (per 2018) and

Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Support (new in 2019) comprising of

(a) First Response Support,

(b) Mobility and Cancer Care Transport, and

(c) Sensory Gardens.

In 2019, Local Authorities may make applications for funding under Measures 1, 2 and 3(c).

**Timelines**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Scheme launch | 28 February 2019 |
| Applications to be received by the Local Authority | By 12th April 2019 |
| Assessment and decisions by Department. | By 28 June 2019 |
| Project and drawdown completed | By 31 October 2019 |

**Extensions**

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure that the project will be completed and funding drawn down within the above timelines. The Department may grant an extension under exceptional circumstances. An extension request must be submitted in writing to the Department by the LA stating the reason for the extension and the new completion/drawdown dates. The Department reserves the right to allow/deny the extension.

**Applications**

The 2019 programme will again allow for applications to be submitted to the LA from Schools, Community Groups and also from Local Development Companies.

Up to **15** applications in total, between Measures 1 and 2, may be selected by the LA, providing that they are of sufficient quality, in line with the scheme outline, and are consistent with developmental planning at a local level, LECP’s, town plans and any other relevant plans, for onward submission to the Department for its consideration.

Applications under Measure 1 may include a number of different elements (see Detailed Measure Outline below) in respect of a single facility (school or community) up to the maximum funding limit outlined in the Measure.

There is no maximum number of applications that may be submitted under Measure 3(c), but it should be noted that available funding under this Measure is limited (€1.5 million for Measure 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c)).

**New Application Process for 2019**

The declaration must be signed by the Director of Services undertaking to ensure that all required permissions, match-funding, etc. are in place and confirming that the information provided complies with the 2019 CLÁR Scheme Outline.

**Assessment Criteria**

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

**Eligible Costs**

Applications should detail all of the costs associated with the proposed project and only items of a capital nature that are integral to the project should be included.

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**

100% after certification by the LA/LDC that the project has been completed.

Drawdown requests for payment should only be submitted by the LA/LDC when the LA/LDC has itself incurred the expense. It is not acceptable that a drawdown request be submitted to the Department if invoices etc. submitted to the LA/LDC by community groups/contractors remain unpaid.

**The closing date for receipt of all applications is 12 April 2019.**

**Detailed Measure Outline**

**Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures**

CLÁR 2019 will consider support for interventions that make the school/community facility environs healthier and safer for the children attending the schools, and for children and adults using the community facilities.

In this context the table below outlines the supports eligible for funding in CLÁR areas under this measure. The list below **is definitive** and based on the projects funded through CLÁR in prior years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Intervention** | **Possible Funding to be allocated** |
| Upgrade Road markings on approach roads to Schools/community facilities. | Max €1,000 |
| Erect pedestrian crossings in small towns and villages at schools/community facilities. | Max €22,000 |
| Construction and upgrading of access footpaths next to schools or community facilities. | Max €30,000 |
| Car Parking facilities to access schools or community facilities. | Max €30,000 |
| Provision of Bus Shelters | Max €25,000 |
| Provision of Public Lighting | Max €30,000 |
| Overall max per project if there are a number of elements above included in applications for a single location | Max €50,000 |

**Eligible Applicants:** Schools, Community Groups, Local Development Companies, Local Authorities.

Projects proposed to the Department by the LA’s must be selected on the basis of:

* an application by a School/Community/LDC to the LA
* evidence that all necessary permissions are in place
* evidence where applicable that ownership/lease is in place
* full estimated costs (procurement not required at this point)
* evidence that match funding is in place where relevant
* clear evidence of need, and
* relevance to the LECP/other plan.

**Rate of Aid**

A minimum grant of €1,000 and maximum grants as listed in the table above will apply to this measure. The scheme will provide up to 90% of the cost or the maximum amount outlined in the table above, whichever is the lesser. The remaining 10% or balance of the cost should be provided through community/other resources with a minimum of 5% cash contribution from the School/Community.

**Measure 2: Schools/Community Play Areas (including MUGAs)**

CLÁR 2019 will consider support for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new School/Community Play areas.

**Eligible Applicants:** Schools, Community Groups, Local Development Companies, Local Authorities.

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

* an application by a School/Community/LDC to the LA
* evidence that all necessary permissions are in place
* evidence, where applicable, that ownership/lease is in place
* full estimated costs including administration/professional fees (procurement not required at this point)
* evidence that match funding is in place where relevant
* being open to the public without appointment
* clear evidence of need, and
* relevance to the LECP/other plan.

**Rate of Aid**

A minimum grant of €5,000 and a maximum grant of €50,000 for projects will be available. The maximum grant payable will be 90% of the project cost or a maximum of €50,000, whichever is the lesser. The remaining 10% or balance of the cost should be provided through local authority/community/other resources with a minimum of 5% cash contribution from the School/Community.

**Measure 3(c): Sensory Gardens**

Eligible Groups: Relevant Community Groups and Facilities, Local Development Agencies/Companies, Local Authorities

Max. grant rate: 85% of total cost

Min. grant: €6,000

Max. grant: €60,000

Administration: Local Authorities

Payment arrangements: In arrears on 100% completion of project.

Criteria will allow for applications for specialist sensory gardens and play equipment. The maximum level of funding for sensory garden projects will be limited to €60,000, with a requirement for match funding of at least 15% of the total cost of the project. A Local Authority or other eligible applicant may bundle a sensory garden project with a playground or MUGA project. Such projects must be located in a CLÁR area.

**Eligible Applicants:** Care Facilities, Community Groups, Local Development Companies, Local Authorities.

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

* an application by a Special School/Community/LDC to the LA
* evidence that all necessary permissions are in place
* evidence, where applicable, that ownership/lease is in place
* full estimated costs including management/professional fees (procurement not required at this point)
* evidence that match funding is in place where relevant
* being open to the public without appointment
* clear evidence of need, and
* relevance to the LECP/other plan.

**Rate of Aid**

A minimum grant of €6,000 and a maximum grant of €60,000 for projects will be available. The maximum grant payable will be 85% of the project cost or a maximum of €60,000, whichever is the lesser. The remaining 15% or balance of the cost should be provided through community/other resources with a minimum of 5% cash contribution from the School/Community.