

**CLÁR 2018 Scheme Outline**

**Local Authority Measures**

**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 2018**

There is an allocation of €5million in total for 2018, of which, up to €4 million is available under 2 measures to be operated via Local Authorities for a range of School and Community projects.

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (€2M)

Measure 2: Play Areas (Including MUGAs) (€2M)

**Timelines**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Scheme launch | 15th March |
| Applications to be received by the Local Authority | By April 18th |
| Assessment and decisions, contracts | By May 31st |
| Project Completion/Drawdown | Sept/Oct |

**Applications**

The 2018 scheme will allow for applications to be submitted to the LA from Schools, and Community Groups.

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.

**Please note that applications in respect of each separate facility must be submitted on a separate application form.**

**Application forms detailing projects in respect of multiple facilities will not be considered.**

The Department will select a number of projects in whole or in part and will take the proportion of the county that is within CLÁR into account in the decision making process. Where facilities have received funding in the past, particularly under CLÁR 2017, the Department may take that into account when making final decisions regarding project selection and may prioritise those that have not received funding previously.

Applications should be submitted on the relevant application form for each measure and all relevant details should be inserted in the enclosed template also. It is also important that all additional/supplementary documentation is submitted with applications.

**Please Note: Where the application form is not completed correctly, or where any additional/supplementary documentation is not submitted at the time of application; the application may not be considered further.**

**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 form. Such costs will be eligible up to a maximum of 12.5% of the overall project costs.

**Public Procurement**

Please note that EU and National public procurement procedures must be followed with regard to expenditure proposed as a result of CLÁR grant aid.

1. In general, a competitive process carried out in an open, objective and transparent manner can achieve best value for money in public procurement. This is in line with EU Treaty principles and EU Directives on public procurement. Essential principles to be observed in conducting the procurement function includes non – discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, mutual recognition, proportionality, freedom to provide service and freedom of establishment.
2. For Projects in Excess of € 50,000 guidance on supporting an acceptable procurement process can be found at [www.etenders.ie.](http://www.etenders.ie.)

All records relating to tendering/procurement/contracting/sub-contracting, for audit inspection for a period of 6 years after the completion of the project. Copies of all documentation will be submitted to Cavan County Council before claims can be processed.

**Grant Payment arrangements**

100% of the Grant will be paid to the School or Community Group after certification by the Local Authority that the project has been completed.

Payment will not be processed without the submission of all relevant invoices marked/ receipts and copy of Bank Statement showing payment to contractor(s).

**Detailed Measures**

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

CLÁR 2018 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 2016/2017.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Intervention** | **Possible Funding to be allocated** |
| 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 and Community Groups,

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

* an application by a School/Community/ 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
* 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 Local Authority/community/other resources with a minimum of 5% cash contribution from the School/Community.

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

It is proposed to run a specific Play Areas measure as part of the 2018 Programme. CLÁR 2018 will consider support for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new School/Community Play areas.

**Eligible Applicants:** Schools, Community Groups, 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 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
* 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.