



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

# Food poverty Government programmes, schemes and supports

July 2022

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## Minister's Foreword

As Minister of State with responsibility for social inclusion in the Department of Social Protection, I have a strong interest in addressing all types of poverty. Poverty is multi-dimensional and needs to be addressed on a number of fronts. Food poverty, in particular, is a complex issue that is primarily determined by affordability and accessibility. First and foremost we know that people need sufficient income to buy food. But we also know that they need accessible local shops and supermarkets that supply a variety of affordable and nutritious food. They need the facilities to cook meals and the knowledge and skills to make those meals nutritious and healthy.

Government is committed to addressing food poverty. Addressing food poverty in children is a commitment in the Programme for Government. The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025, which is the national strategy for poverty reduction and improved social inclusion, includes a specific commitment to 'develop a comprehensive programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions'. To progress this commitment, I established the Food Poverty Working Group in April 2021. The membership of the Group reflects the complex nature of food poverty, with representatives from a number of Government Departments as well as Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Crosscare and the Children's Rights Alliance.

I am pleased to publish this report which is the result of a mapping exercise undertaken by the Food Poverty Working Group. It is clear this issue cross-cuts a number of Departments who are engaged in programmes, schemes and supports that are connected, either directly or indirectly, to the issue of food poverty. This report shows the range of work being undertaken by Departments, agencies, schools, and the community and voluntary sector, all funded by Government in 2021 - everything from disseminating literature on healthy eating, to Hot School meals, and food waste initiatives, to Meals on Wheels. A key challenge going forward is ensuring that these supports operate as effectively and efficiently as possible in mitigating food poverty.

**Joe O'Brien, T.D.**

**Minister of State with responsibility for Social Inclusion  
Department of Social Protection**



## Introduction

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020 – 2025, published in January 2020, is the national strategy for poverty reduction and improved social inclusion. The Roadmap aims to reduce the percentage of the population in consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025 and to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive countries in the EU. In April 2021, Joe O'Brien T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Social Inclusion, established a Working Group on Food Poverty to progress the delivery of Roadmap Commitment 61: *Develop a comprehensive programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions*. This Roadmap Commitment aligns with U.N. Sustainable Development Goals One, No Poverty, and Two, Zero Hunger.

The Food Poverty Working Group consists of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; Education; Health; Rural and Community Development; and Social Protection. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Crosscare and the Children's Rights Alliance are also members of this group. The group met on four occasions in 2021, twice so far in 2022 (February and April).

This report is the outcome of a high-level mapping exercise undertaken by the Group that is intended to illustrate the breadth of programmes, schemes and supports in place across Government to tackle food poverty. The schemes fall into two categories: those directly focused on tackling food poverty and those where food poverty is addressed as part of broader supports. Schemes where the entire funding is for food poverty are in tan tables below; schemes where food poverty is an aspect of broader funding are in green.

### Measuring food poverty in Ireland

While there is no official food poverty indicator in Ireland, in 2012 the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) developed a measure which defined food poverty as the inability to have an adequate and nutritious diet due to issues of affordability or accessibility<sup>1</sup>. The food poverty measure is derived using data collected as part of the annual Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC). For 2021, the achieved sample size for SILC was 4,846 households and 12,291 individuals.

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<sup>1</sup> Food poverty measure was introduced in *Constructing a Food Poverty Indicator for Ireland using the Survey on Income and Living Conditions*

Food poverty is measured by the percentage of individuals experiencing one of more of the following:

- Unable to afford a meal with meat, or vegetarian equivalent, every second day**  
 This indicator suggests severe food deprivation. This item is one of the 11 deprivation items used for the consistent poverty measure.
- Unable to afford a weekly roast dinner (or vegetarian equivalent)**  
 This indicator refers to the affordability of food, and in addition, the affordability of a cultural norm. While reference to a weekly roast may seem outdated, the indicator refers to those who cannot afford this. This item is one of the 11 deprivation items used for the consistent poverty measure.
- Missing one substantial meal in the last fortnight due to lack of money**  
 This item, in its reference to the affordability of food, but not the quality or adequacy of it, refers to severe food deprivation. This item is not one of the 11 deprivation items used for the consistent poverty measure. Also, it is asked of all respondents over 16 years of age whereas the other deprivation items are asked at a household level.

**TABLE 1: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION EXPERIENCING FOOD POVERTY**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Food poverty rate (%)	13.1	12.2	9.8	8.7	7.0	7.4	12.0	8.9

Results of responses to the three food deprivation indicators are in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION EXPERIENCING DEPRIVATION BY INDICATOR TYPE**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Unable to afford a meal with meat, or vegetarian equivalent, every second day (%)	3.5	3.5	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.7
Unable to afford a weekly roast dinner (or vegetarian equivalent) (%)	7.6	6.9	5.6	5.3	4.0	4.5	3.7	3.6
Missing one substantial meal in the last fortnight due to lack of money (%)	7.5	6.4	5.1	4.0	3.7	4.0	9.2	6.2

Figures provided by ESRI from SILC dataset. Data from 2020 onwards is not directly comparable with data up to 2019 due to a break in series.

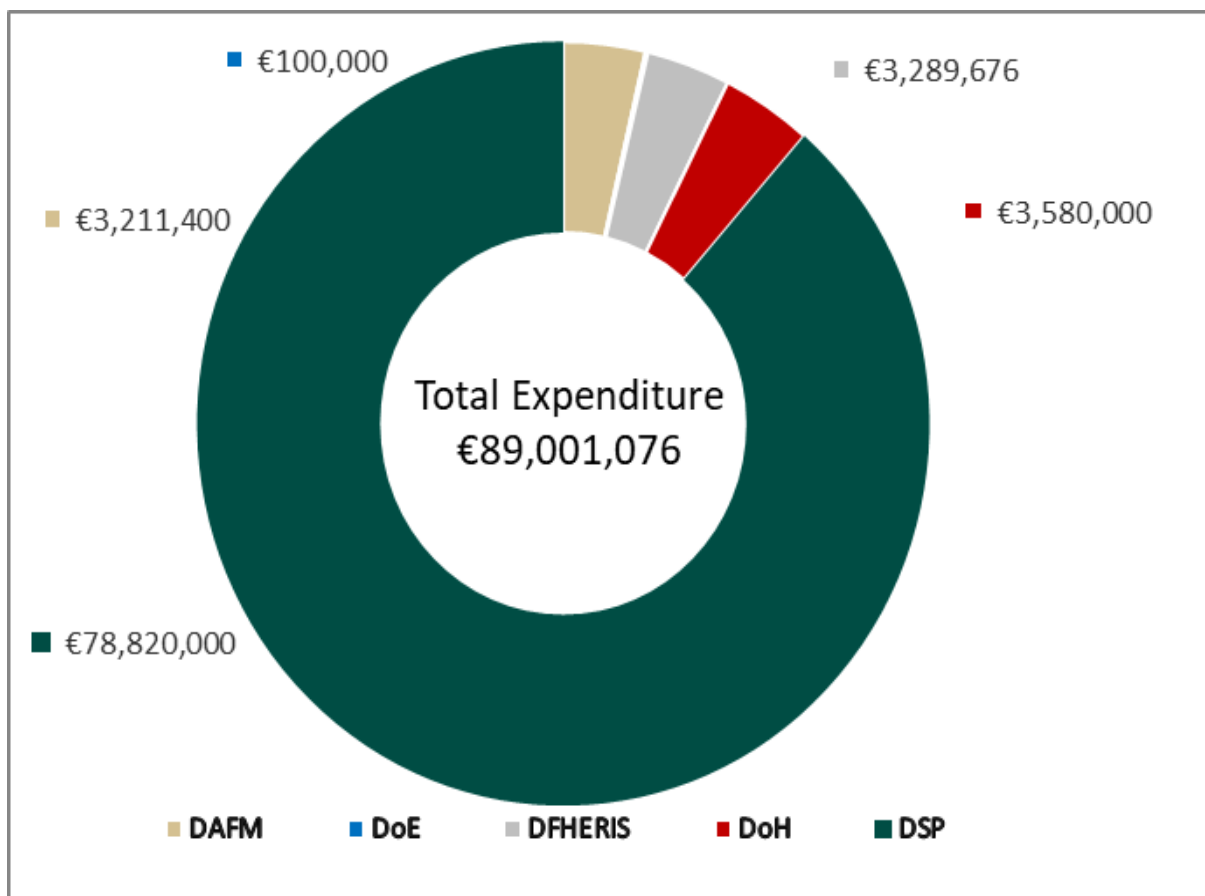
## Summary of programmes, schemes and supports across Government

Department	Scheme
Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	EU School Scheme – School Milk
	EU School Scheme – Fruit and Vegetables (Food Dudes)
	Rural Innovation and Development Fund – Food Waste Initiatives
Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)	<i>Early Years' Service Regulation</i>
Education (DoE)	Education Initiatives
	<i>School Curriculum</i>
	<i>Summer Programmes</i>
Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)	Subsidised Meals for Learners/Meal Allowances
	<i>Student Assistance Fund (SAF)</i>
	<i>Student Grant Scheme</i>
Health (DoH)	Food in Schools Forum
	Healthy Eating Guidelines for Food Parcels
	Lactation Consultants
	Meals on Wheels
	Nutrition Standards for Early Learning and Care Services
	Community Food and Nutrition Workers
	Reformulation Taskforce
	Safefood Community Food Initiative (CFI)
<i>Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme</i>	
Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)	<i>Homelessness Funding</i>
Rural and Community Development (DRCD)	<i>Additional Community Grants</i>
	<i>Community Services Programme</i>
	<i>COVID-19 Emergency Fund</i>
	<i>Libraries</i>
	<i>Measures to support Social Enterprises</i>
	<i>Protestant Aid</i>
	<i>Saint Vincent de Paul</i>
<i>Social Inclusion &amp; Community Activation Programme (SICAP)</i>	
Social Protection (DSP)	School Meals
	European Social Fund Plus Support for the Most Deprived
	Community Employment Scheme – Meals on Wheels
	Tús Scheme – Meals on Wheels
	Rural Social Scheme – Meals on Wheels
	<i>Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)</i>

Schemes in italics have broader targets than food poverty

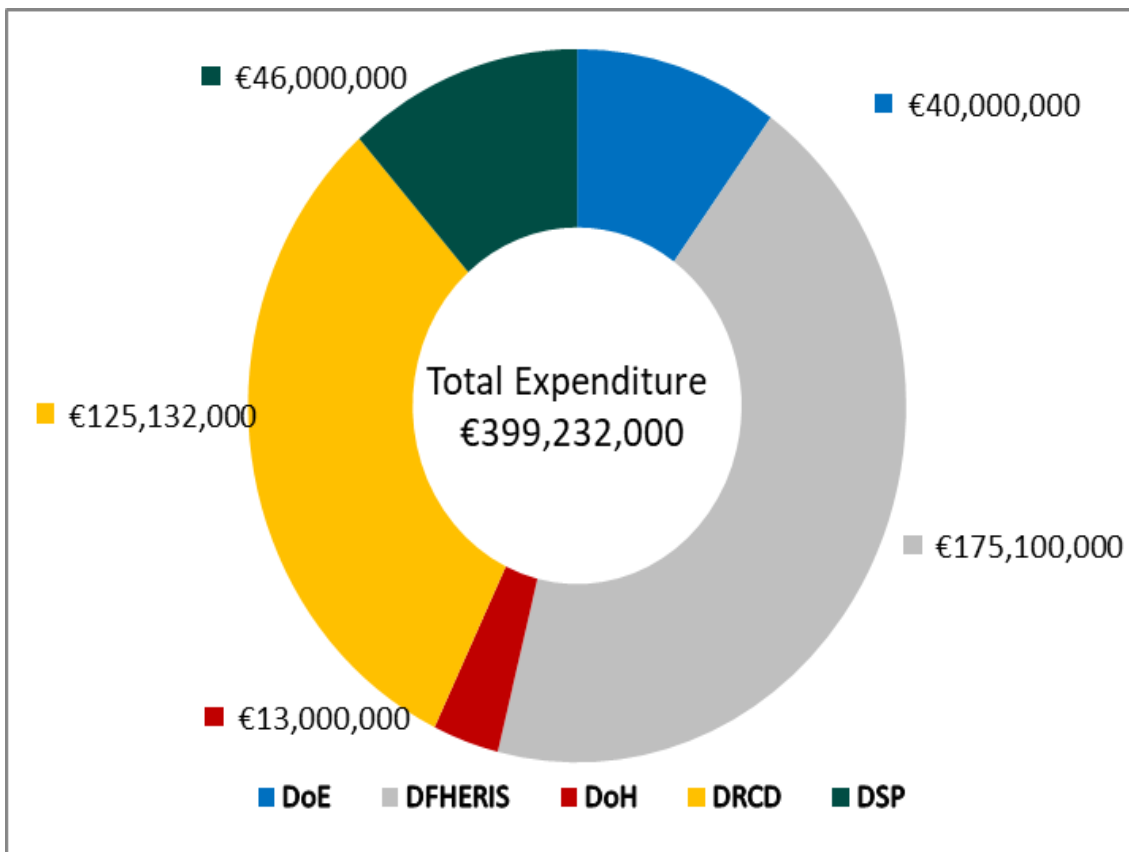
The following figures illustrate the total expenditure by each Government Department in 2021 on programmes, schemes and supports that address food poverty. The expenditure is divided into Figure 1, expenditure directly addressing food poverty, and Figure 2, expenditure on a broader programme, scheme or support that includes assisting with food poverty as part of its broader target. These figures do not account for work being funded where the expenditure could not be disaggregated from overall funding.

**FIGURE 1: 2021 EXPENDITURE DIRECTLY ADDRESSING FOOD POVERTY**





**FIGURE 2: 2021 EXPENDITURE ON BROADER SCHEMES THAT INCLUDE A FOOD POVERTY ASPECT**



The tables below detail the activities being funded by each Department to directly, or indirectly, address food poverty in 2021. They included a description of the scheme, the partners involved in delivering the scheme, the primary funding recipient and the frequency of service delivery. The table indicates the type of scheme, such as: direct food provision; education; public awareness campaign; financial support; and the target group and age cohort and bracket. Where available, the annual budget for 2021 and the number of people supported by the scheme is indicated. All data relates to 2021 specifically, however if the scheme is ongoing or part of a multi-annual strategy, this is stated in the 'year completed' field.

# €89m

Cross-Departmental expenditure for 2021  
directly addressing Food Poverty -  
a total of €399.2m spent on related schemes

## School Supports

€68.3m spent across  
1,506 participating schools



**55,000**

children received  
hot school meals



**42,998**

children on the  
School Milk Scheme



**37,271**

children got fruit  
and vegetable packs

## Education



**Healthy eating**  
guidelines for food parcels



Community food and  
**nutrition workers**

## Community



**€7.1m**

on Community Employment schemes  
for Meals on Wheels



**€2m**

on subsidies, grants and  
food costs for Meals on Wheels



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

## Mission

To lead, enable and regulate the sector in a way that optimises its contribution to social, economic and environmental sustainability.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, promotes and safeguards public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society. It provides income and targeted supports to farmers and others in the agri-food sector to underpin the rural economy and optimise environmental sustainability. It provides the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector.

Food Vision 2030 is a stakeholder-led strategy to underpin the agri-food sector's continued development. Food Vision aims for Ireland to be a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems and charts a pathway to sustainability in all its dimensions – environmental, economic and social.

Policy Activity	Details
<b>EU School Scheme – School Milk</b>	<p>The School Milk Scheme, which is funded by the European Union (EU) and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and run by the National Dairy Council (NDC), entitles school-going children to approximately 250ml milk on each school day. Pre-schools, primary and second-level schools are eligible for the Scheme. Milk is provided for free to participating DEIS schools and the cost to parents is subsidised in non-DEIS schools.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on participation numbers as schools grappling with public health restrictions were reluctant to handle milk. This resulted in a 50% drop amongst non-DEIS schools. Participation in DEIS schools remained largely constant. While schools were closed between January and March 2021, funding was provided for a home delivery programme under which 125,912 litres of milk and 8,125kg of milk products (cheese) were delivered to 13,556 pupils. While participation numbers have recovered slightly in the 2021/22 academic school year, they are still well below pre-pandemic levels. The focus for the next school year will be to increase participation numbers further.</p> <p>Online resources via the “Moo Crew” website were strengthened during the pandemic with lesson plans etc all now available, with the story of milk from grass to glass. DAFM are collaborating with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and the NDC on a pilot School Milk Scheme which will take place in 20 pre-school establishments in largely disadvantaged area in South County Dublin in March 2022. The distribution of milk will be supported by bespoke accompanying educational measures and the pilot will be</p>

evaluated by University College Dublin – the School Scheme evaluators.		
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools</li> <li>National Dairy Council</li> <li>Department of Health</li> <li>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</li> <li>Healthy Ireland members</li> </ul>	Multi-annual, six year strategy, ending in 2023. (Scheme 2023- 2029 commences 01/08/23)	Direct food provision
<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
Primary and Secondary School Children with pilots to Pre-School early learning centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 – 17</li> </ul>	42,998 in School Year 2020 – 2021.
<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
Daily (in term time).	National Dairy Council	€1,152,000 (includes c.€900,000 EU funding)

**EU School Scheme – Fruit & Vegetables (Food Dudes)**

Food Dudes is a healthy eating programme, based on repeated tastings of fresh fruit and vegetables, rewards and positive role models. It is aimed at primary school age children from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class. Approval was granted by the EU to deliver the programme to only DEIS schools during the 2020/21 school year. Funding was provided for 2 programmes; firstly a Home Delivery Programme which commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and ran up to Easter and secondly a Post Easter 2021 school based programme on the resumption of in school learning for pupils due to favourable disease incidence/improved public health situation.

Under the Home Delivery Programme, packs were delivered to the children in the participating schools in conjunction with school lunches (care packs) funded under the Department of Social Protection’s School Meals Schemes. Each Food Dudes delivery pack was accompanied by a specially designed recipe card and the Food Dudes website was updated with new educational resources for use at home by parents/children. In total, 15,205 children attending DEIS schools participated in the Home Delivery Programme.

Post Easter 2021, funding was provided for a 10 week specially designed programme aimed at DEIS schools. Recognising the challenges presented by pandemic for schools this programme offered more flexibility than the traditional model and allowed DEIS schools to select between 3 models of delivery to best suit their requirements. The programme was supported by bespoke educational accompanying measures including cookery booklets, parent and child cookery videos and Food Dudes motivational videos by Healthy Eating ambassadors

Kellie Harrington and Philly McMahon which were particularly well received. The 2021/2022 programme has now reverted to the original model with all schools including DEIS schools being given an opportunity to participate in the programme.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Health</li> <li>Department of Education</li> <li>Bord Bia</li> <li>Healthy Ireland members</li> </ul>	Multi-annual, six year strategy, ending in 2023. (Scheme 2023- 2029 commences 01/08/23)	Direct education
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
Primary school children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 – 17</li> </ul>	37,271 in School Year 2020 – 2021.
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
Daily (to a maximum of 16 days per school year)	Bord Bia	€2,000,000

**Rural Innovation and Development Fund – Food Waste Initiatives**

This is a pilot scheme being trialled with a select number of producers to increase surplus food redistribution from the Irish horticulture sector to charities. FoodCloud hubs works with approximately 300 charities nationwide who will be in receipt of the produce.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
FoodCloud	Current pilot ends 2022	Direct
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
Charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Unknown
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
Daily	FoodCloud	€59,400

# Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

## Mission

To enhance the lives of children, young people, adults, families and communities, recognising diversity and promoting equality of opportunity.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth subsidise fees paid by parents (subject to certain eligibility conditions depending on the particular scheme) to pre-school and school-age childcare providers. While there is no specific budget for food provision, these childcare providers do provide food to the children in their care, and the type of food provided is stipulated by the Department's Early Year's Service Regulation.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>Early Years' Service Regulation</b>	<p>Early Years Services Regulations stipulate the type of food that is required to be provided to children who are participating Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare services.</p> <p>These costs are built into the cost model of service providers which are met by fees from Parents. The Department subsidises those fees through various schemes subject to certain eligibility criteria and/or family income levels.</p>		
	Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Túsła</li> <li>Early learning and care providers (ELC)</li> <li>School-age childcare providers (SAC)</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Direct education
	Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
	Children using centre based ELC/SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 – 17</li> </ul>	200,000
	Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
	Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early learning and care providers (ELC)</li> <li>School-age childcare providers (SAC)</li> </ul>	It is not possible to disaggregate the proportionate of subsidy used for food as the subsidy is against total fee by parents.

# Department of Education

## Mission

To facilitate children and young people, through learning, to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland’s social, economic and cultural development.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

Department of Education works with the Department of Social Protection to support the implementation of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion: to ensure that students most in need continue to be prioritised for inclusion in the School Meals Programme; to reduce the number of children experiencing consistent poverty; to improve educational outcomes; and to mitigate the impact of socio-economic deprivation.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>Education Initiatives</b>	<p>Incredible Edibles is a healthy eating and horticultural growing initiative, developed for primary school students and their teachers across Ireland.</p> <p>The aim of the project is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To educate students about growing fruit and vegetables</li> <li>• To increase awareness of food origin and quality</li> <li>• To highlight the important role that fresh, Irish produce plays in a healthy balanced diet</li> <li>• To communicate the health benefits of consuming at least five to seven portions of fruit and vegetables every day, to help prevent obesity.</li> </ul> <p>By empowering students with knowledge of where their food comes from, the initiative allows students to make healthy choices into the future and encourage a heightened knowledge of local Irish produce. Therefore, this project is designed to enhance generational change in the fight against obesity, ensuring participating students become informed consumers when making purchasing decisions as young adults, and indeed as parents going forward.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Health</li> <li>• Agri Aware</li> </ul>	Multi-annual	Direct education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Primary and Post Primary Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 - 17</li> </ul>	44,000
<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>	
Dependent on timetable	Agri Aware (charity)	€100,000	

**School Curriculum**

The Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Curriculum for primary schools includes Food and Nutrition as one of the units of learning under the 'Taking Care of my Body' Strand Unit for children from junior infants through to sixth class. These objectives enable the child to:

- become aware of the importance of food for promoting growth and development and keeping healthy
- explore food preferences and their role in a balanced diet,
- discuss and explore some qualities and categories of food
- appreciate that balance, regularity and moderation are necessary in the diet
- differentiate between a healthy and an unhealthy diet
- recognise the wide choice of food available and categorise food into the four main food groups and their place on the food pyramid
- recognise some of the important nutrients that are necessary in a balanced diet and the food products in which they are found

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
Schools	On-going	Direct Education
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
Primary and Post Primary Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 - 17</li> </ul>	759,075
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
SPHE is part of the school timetable	Schools	It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of this programme from education funding.

**Summer Programmes**

In May 2021, the Department of Education announced the provision of expanded summer education programmes for students with complex special educational needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage, as a COVID-19 pandemic response measure, for summer 2021.

This programme was made available to all schools across the primary and post primary sectors. DSP also extended the funding for school meals to all schools who are providing the summer programmes and information on how to apply for the funding was issued to all participating schools on 23 June.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Social Protection</li> <li>• Schools</li> </ul>	2021	Direct education



	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Primary and Post Primary Students with complex educational needs and students at risk of educational disadvantage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 - 17</li> </ul>	24,656 pupils participated in the 2021 school-based programme
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Annually	Schools	€40,000,000 available. Final expenditure unknown.

# Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

## Mission

To develop Ireland's further and higher education and research systems to support people in reaching their full potential and to create value, prosperity, resilience and a cohesive, sustainable and vibrant society.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science provides supports for learning for all, recognising the needs of the most marginalised people. They provide financial support and subsidised meals/meal allowances to those in need.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>Subsidised Meals for Learners/ Meal Allowances</b>	The Department provides funding for the provision of subsidised meals and meal allowances to learners in Further Education and Training.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	SOLAS	Multi Annual	Direct food provision
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	People in Further Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 – 65</li> <li>66+</li> </ul>	30,145
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Daily (Mon-Fri)	Education and Training Boards	€3,289,676
<b>Student Assistance Fund (SAF)</b>	Students on full or part-time courses leading to a higher education award (NQF level 6-10) in the universities, institutes of technology and other approved colleges can apply for the Student Assistance Fund. It provides financial support to full or part-time students who are experiencing either temporary or ongoing financial difficulties. The SAF is designed to provide a source of financial support and may also be provided in addition to a Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) grant.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Higher Education Authority	Ongoing Scheme	Financial support

	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Disadvantaged students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 – 65</li> <li>• 66+</li> </ul>	14,000
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Once-off	Disadvantaged students	€9,100,000
<b>Student Grant Scheme</b>	<p>The main support available to assist students with the cost of further and higher education is the Student Grant Scheme. To qualify for grant support, a student has to meet various criteria such as means, residency, nationality and progression.</p> <p>Under the Student Grant Scheme the special rate of maintenance grant, (currently €5,915) is payable to disadvantaged maintenance grant holders and targeted at those most in need. Those in receipt of the Special rate of grant also qualify for a maximum contribution of €6,270 towards fees, giving a maximum total potential funding of €12,185 (grant plus fee).</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)	Ongoing Scheme	Financial support
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Disadvantaged students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 – 65</li> <li>• 66+</li> </ul>	61,300 in receipt of maintenance grant in 2020/21 academic year
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Once-off	Disadvantaged students	€166,000,000 (maintenance grant excluding fee payments)

# Department of Health

## Mission

To improve the health and well-being of people in Ireland by:

- supporting people to lead healthy and independent lives;
- ensuring the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care;
- creating a more responsive integrated and people-centred health and social care service; and
- promoting effective and efficient management of the health and social care service and ensuring best value from health system resources.

## Food and nutrition-related policy areas and activities

Department of Health’s food-related work focuses on healthy eating and obesity.

The Healthy Ireland Framework, which was launched in 2013, provided a cross-Government focus to deliver the vision for a Healthy Ireland, where “everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility”. The Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 provides a clear roadmap of how Government departments can work together to bring about good health, access to services, healthy environments and the promotion of resilience.

The plan includes the implementation of the Obesity Policy and Action Plan. It also includes work in partnership with the Department of Social Protection: to deliver Roadmap Commitment 61, ‘develop a comprehensive programme of work to further explore the drivers of food poverty and to identify mitigating actions’, and to continue and support the School Meals Programme.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>Meals on Wheels</b>	<p>Access to a meals-on-wheels service can enable older people to remain living in their own homes and communities or to return to their own home after a period of hospitalisation.</p> <p>The Department provides funding for subsidies, grants and food costs. This amounted to €2,000,000 in 2020. The Department also provided funding of €80,000 to Irish Rural Link in 2022 for the creation of a meals-on-wheels coordinator post.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Irish Rural Link	2022	Direct financial support

	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort</b> (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66+</li> </ul>	Unknown
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Ongoing	Irish Rural Link	€2,000,000
<b>Nutrition Standards for Early Learning and Care Services</b>	These Nutrition Standards were developed by Healthy Ireland in partnership with Safefood, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the Early Learning and Care Services.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth</li> <li>Early Learning and Care Services</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Direct education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort</b> (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Pre-school children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 - 17</li> </ul>	Approximately 4,000
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Ongoing	No funding recipient	This figure cannot be disaggregated from overall funding
<b>Community Food and Nutrition Workers</b>	To support the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, 19 Community Food and Nutrition Workers are being funded by Healthy Ireland. These CFNW (nutritionists /dietitians) will work directly through the HSE's community partner organisations, such as the Local Development Companies, etc.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSE</li> <li>Local community partnerships</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Public awareness campaign</li> </ul>
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort</b> (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Those living in the Healthy Communities Programme designated areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	19 Communities - 451,924 people

	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Year Round	HSE	N/A – recruitment commenced in 2022
<b>Healthy Eating Guidelines for Food Parcels</b>	These Guidelines were developed by Healthy Ireland in partnership with Safefood, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). The contents of food parcels reflect the Healthy Eating Guidelines and show the types of foods and serving sizes that a healthy adult, teenager or child over 5-years needs a day for a healthy diet.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Safefood	Ongoing	Direct education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Children over 5 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 - 17</li> </ul>	Up to 420,000
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
Ongoing – year long	No funding recipient	No annual budget	
<b>Safefood Community Food Initiative (CFI)</b>	The aim of the Community Food Initiative (CFI) programme is to positively influence the eating habits of families with children in low-income communities. The community initiatives support the development of skills and knowledge around food and healthy eating, healthier shopping and cooking skills.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Safefood	2021	Direct education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Children, Families, Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Unknown
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
Not specified	Community and voluntary groups Local development companies	This figure cannot be disaggregated from overall funding	
<b>Food in Schools Forum.</b>	The Food in Schools Forum was established to bring together key Government Departments, agencies and stakeholders to identify the nutrition/food related work ongoing in schools and to provide support to the DES as identified as a key action in the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan. The Forum met regularly while carrying out the mapping exercise and will meet annually.		

	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Government Partners and Stakeholders	Ongoing	Direct education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 - 17</li> </ul>	All schools
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Ongoing	No funding requirement	This figure cannot be disaggregated from overall funding
<b>Lactation Consultants</b>	<p>The HSE is committed to protecting, supporting and promoting breastfeeding. Breastfeeding support has been shown to be most effective where it is face to face, scheduled and predictable and provided by trained health professionals and/or peer counsellors. An additional funding to the HSE of €1.58 million was announced in May 2021 to fund 24 additional lactation consultants thereby providing support to every maternity unit in the country.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	HSE	On-going	Direct Education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Mothers experiencing challenges with breastfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	All hospital and community services
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Available year round	HSE	€1,580,000
<b>Reformulation Taskforce</b>	<p>A Food Reformulation Task Force was established in December 2021 to implement the Roadmap for Food Product Reformulation in Ireland. Publication of the Roadmap is a core element of Ireland's Obesity Policy and Action Plan, setting targets for the reduction of the levels of saturated fats, sugar, salt and calories in processed foods. The links between diet and non-communicable diseases are well-established, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas, where people tend to eat more processed food. The work of the Task Force, together with the food industry, will help to combat inequality by improving the quality of food available.</p>		

	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Ireland</li> <li>Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)</li> </ul>	Multi-annual, to 2025	Product reformulation
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Total population
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Year round	FSAI	This figure cannot be disaggregated from overall funding
<b>Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme</b>	<p>The Healthy Communities Programme is an area-based programme focusing on 19 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) areas in its first year of implementation. It is comprised of Health-specific interventions targeting smoking, social prescribing, parenting, healthy eating and “making every contact count”.</p> <p>The healthy eating aspect is the Healthy Food Made Easy 6-week programme. This is a nutrition and cookery course that helps people change to a healthier diet, plans meals on a budget and make easy to cook meals.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	HSE & Local Authorities	Ongoing	Direct education
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Disadvantaged Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	420,000 supported within the 19 areas
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Available year round	HSE and Local Authorities	€13,000,000



# Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

## Mission

To support sustainable development, with a particular focus on strategic planning, the efficient delivery of well-planned homes in vibrant communities, the sustainable management of our water resources, the nurturing of Ireland's heritage and the promotion of effective local government.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has a role in providing funding to Local Authorities for the provision of homeless accommodation and services. These services include food provision.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>Homelessness Funding</b>	<p>Funding is provided to local authorities under section 10 of the Housing Act 1988 for costs that may be incurred by housing authorities in respect of the provision of homeless accommodation and related services. The services to homeless households are delivered by NGOs. 24 hour services (including food) were introduced in the Dublin region during Covid-19 and it is proposed that these services will be mainstreamed into expenditure programmes going forward.</p> <p>A Statutory Management Group (SMG) for homelessness exists in each of the nine homeless regions and it is the responsibility of the SMG to make decisions on the range and funding of homeless services including the provision of food in the relevant region.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authorities</li> <li>NGOs</li> </ul>	Multi annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support</li> <li>Food provision</li> </ul>
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Homeless people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Not available
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
Daily	Local Authorities	This figure cannot be disaggregated from overall funding	

# Department of Rural and Community Development

## Mission

To promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

Department of Rural and Community Development actively supports community organisations that work with disadvantaged people, including in relation to the provision of food. It also supports direct food provision through funding to Saint Vincent de Paul and the Meals on Wheels service.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>Additional Community Grants</b>	<p>The Department funds a range of grant programmes, generally for capital works, that community groups, including those completing work in relation to food poverty, can avail of. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Community Enhancement Programme which in 2021 provided small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of community facilities that closed due to COVID-19.</li> <li>the LEADER programme which supports private enterprises and community groups who improve the quality of life and economic activity in rural areas. LEADER is a measure contained in Ireland's Rural Development Programme. It is co-financed by the European Union and the exchequer. LEADER is derived from the French phrase "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale" which means links between activities for the development of rural economy.</li> </ul>		
	Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authorities/Public Bodies</li> <li>Local Community Development Committees</li> <li>Community Groups</li> <li>Local Development Companies</li> </ul>	Multi-annual	Broad financial support
	Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
Dependent on the grant scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Unquantifiable	

	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Demand led	Dependent on the grant scheme	€4,500,000 for Community Enhancement Programme; €70,000,000 for LEADER in 2021 and 2022 (covering both project and administration expenditure)
<b>Community Services Programme</b>	The Community Services Programme (CSP) currently supports 420 community organisations to provide local social, economic, and environmental services through a social enterprise model.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Social enterprises	On-going	Direct food provision
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	44 services (out of 420 total) supported that in some way address food poverty, with 292,799 Meals on Wheels/school lunches provided in 2021.
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	As required	Social enterprise organisations	Over €5,000,000 for the 44 groups referenced relating to food poverty
<b>COVID-19 Emergency Fund</b>	Emergency small grant funding for various community initiatives including meals on wheels, as part of the "Community Call" response to COVID-19. Programme now completed.		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Local Authorities	2021	Direct financial support
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Community & voluntary groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Not known
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Once-off fund	Local Authorities	€2,500,000

**Libraries**

The provision of library services is primarily a matter for local authorities in their capacity as library authorities under the Local Government Act 2001. However, the Department does provide funding of €200,000 annually to the Local Government Management Agency to support the 'Healthy Ireland at your Library' programme which is delivered through public library branches nationwide.

Libraries provide a resource where information on healthy eating and nutrition can be shared. Users can also avail of online courses on nutrition and, in 2021, the provision through libraries of free seeds under the Grow It Forward initiative.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Authorities</li> <li>Department of Health (Healthy Ireland)</li> </ul>	On-going	Direct education
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Available to all. Approximately 17m visits per annum prior to 2020.
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
Ongoing	Local Authorities	€200,000

**Measures to support Social Enterprises**

In December 2019, €800,000 funding was awarded under the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) to fund a Training and Mentoring Scheme for Social Enterprises. The scheme is being provided by 14 organisations and will benefit over 400 social enterprises.

In March 2021, Minister Humphreys launched a DAF funded Social Enterprise COVID-19 Regeneration Programme. Under the Programme, more than 500 social Enterprises nationwide will benefit from capacity building training and mentoring in Strategic Planning/Income Diversification, Digital Innovation, Capacity Building and Governance Support.

Specific Social Enterprise measures under the DAF will be announced in the near future in line with Policy commitments.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various stakeholders, including Local Development Companies (LDCs)</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Broad financial support

	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort</b> (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Not available
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Ongoing	Various stakeholders, including LDCs	€2,300,000 under Dormant Accounts Fund
<b>Protestant Aid</b>	<p>The Department provides funding to Protestant Aid, a charity that works to relieve deprivation in Ireland. The funding is used to provide targeted assistance to people experiencing poverty who seek support from the charity.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Protestant Aid	Ongoing	Direct financial support
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort</b> (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Marginalised individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Over 700 families supported in 2021 including nearly 2,000 individuals. Breakdown of food poverty support not specifically available. However, 80% of requests for assistance related to household costs of which food was a major component.
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Ongoing	Protestant Aid	€222,000
<b>Saint Vincent de Paul</b>	<p>The Department funds targeted assistance for people experiencing poverty where requested. Of a total grant of €1,410,000 in 2019, approximately €563,000 was used by Saint Vincent de Paul for food and household support. A total grant of €1,410,000 was issued in 2021. However, the total amount used specifically for food poverty is not currently available.</p> <p>The Department also provides funding to Saint Vincent de Paul for research, analysis, policy development and advocacy.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	Saint Vincent de Paul	Ongoing	Direct financial support
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort</b> (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>

	Marginalised individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	70,412 assisted with food poverty in 2021
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	As required	Saint Vincent de Paul	€1,410,0000
<b>Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)</b>	<p>The programme funds Local Development Companies (LDC) so they can complete work with disadvantaged individuals and groups, including in relation to food provision and nutrition education. The LDC (in conjunction with the Local Community Development Committee in their area) has flexibility in their area regarding work that is completed. One relevant example regarding food poverty is on the following link: <a href="https://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com/news/ballyhoura-development-features-in-sicapstories">https://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com/news/ballyhoura-development-features-in-sicapstories</a></p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Community Development Committees</li> <li>Local Development Companies</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct education</li> <li>Direct food provision</li> </ul>
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Marginalised individuals and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Over 30,000 in total, but data not broken down to isolate food poverty
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Ongoing	Local Development Companies	€39,000,000

# Department of Social Protection

## Mission

To promote active participation and inclusion in society through the provision of income supports, employment services and other services.

## Food-related policy areas and activities

The income supports provided by the Department of Social Protection help to meet the basic living needs of individuals and families in Ireland.

In addition to these supports, the Department provides targeted measure to address food poverty through the School Meals programme and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). Furthermore, a number of the Department's employment programmes, Community Employment, the Rural Social Scheme, and Tús, are engaged in providing Meals on Wheels.

Policy Activity	Details		
<b>School Meals</b>	<p>The school meals programme provides funding towards the provision of food to some 1,506 schools and organisations benefitting 230,000 children. Schools can provide these meals as breakfast, snack, cold lunch, hot dinner or the new hot school meal. The hot school meals programme was introduced as part of Budget 2019, where funding was provided for a pilot scheme to 6,700 in 37 primary schools with no onsite cooking facilities.</p> <p>In Budget 2021 and Budget 2022, the provision of hot school meals was extended to provide access to 55,000 children. €24,500,000 was allocated to hot school meals for the 2021/22 school year.</p>		
	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Education</li> <li>Department of Health (nutrition standards)</li> </ul>	N/A	Direct food provision
	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
	Primary and post primary school children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0-17</li> </ul>	230,000
	<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
	Daily (Mon-Fri)	Schools	€65,100,000

**European Social Fund Plus**

The European Social Fund Plus is an EU-wide programme that helps people take their first steps out of poverty and social exclusion. It supports the most deprived people by addressing their most basic needs.

The Department of Social Protection is responsible for the implementation of this European aid programme in Ireland.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
FoodCloud	N/A	Direct food provision
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	270,000
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
Year round	150 Charities Nationwide	€4,000,000

**Community Employment (CE) Scheme – Meals on Wheels**

The Community Employment (CE) programme is designed to help people who are long-term unemployed (or otherwise disadvantaged) to get back to work by offering part-time and temporary placements in jobs based within local communities.

At the end of July 2021, there were 424 Community Employment scheme participants involved in Meals on Wheels. 125 CE schemes provide support to various Meals on Wheels projects nationally.

The cost for the support of 424 CE participants is estimated at €7,100,000 per annum, provided by the Department of Social Protection for Meals on Wheels.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
Local Meals on Wheels service providers	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work placements</li> <li>Direct food provision</li> </ul>
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66+</li> </ul>	424 CE placements (as of end-July 2021)
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
-	-	€7,100,000 (estimated)



**Tús Scheme – Meals on Wheels**

The Department has overall responsibility for the Tús scheme, which is a community work placement scheme providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed people.

At the end of July 2021, there were 75 Tús scheme participants involved in Meals on Wheels. 27 Tús implementing bodies provide support to various Meals on Wheels projects nationally.

The cost for the support of 75 Tús participants is estimated at €1.32 million per annum, provided by the Department of Social Protection for Meals on Wheels.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
Local Meals on Wheels service providers	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work placements</li> <li>Direct food provision</li> </ul>
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66+</li> </ul>	75 Tús placements (as of end-July 2021)
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
-	-	€1,320,000 (estimated)

**Rural Social Scheme (RSS) – Meals on Wheels**

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) provides a supplementary income for low-income farmers and fishermen or women who are unable to earn an adequate living.

At the end of July 2021, there were 79 RSS scheme participants involved in Meals on Wheels. 15 RSS implementing bodies provide support to various Meals on Wheels projects nationally.

The cost for the support of 79 RSS participants is estimated at €1,300,000 per annum, provided by the Department of Social Protection for Meals on Wheels.

Partners	Year scheme completed	Type and target of scheme
Local Meals on Wheels service providers	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work placements</li> <li>Direct food provision</li> </ul>
Target Group	Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)	Number of people supported annually
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66+</li> </ul>	79 RSS placements (as of end-July 2021)
Frequency of provision	Primary Funding Recipient	Indicative Annual Budget 2021
-	-	€1,300,000 (estimated)

**Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)**

The Department provides Exceptional Needs Payments (ENP) or Urgent Needs Payments (UNP). These are demand led payments made at the discretion of the officers, to ensure that the payments target those most in need of assistance.

<b>Partners</b>	<b>Year scheme completed</b>	<b>Type and target of scheme</b>
N/A	N/A	Direct financial support
<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Age Cohort (0-17, 18-65, 66+, all)</b>	<b>Number of people supported annually</b>
Vulnerable persons in exceptional/urgent financial need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All</li> </ul>	Demand-led scheme
<b>Frequency of provision</b>	<b>Primary Funding Recipient</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget 2021</b>
Discretionary	N/A	UNP/ENP: €46,000,000