



Supporting Parents, Parent Peer Support Fund

Guidance Note for Applicants

Summary

Goal 2 of [Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services](#) is to promote greater access to parenting support services.

Peer support helps parents, , and those in a parenting role, feel more confident in their parenting role. Research suggests parents, and those in a parenting role, are more comfortable seeking support from their peers and that parent peer support groups promote healthy parenting skills, an increased sense of empowerment, and a feeling of belonging. All attributes that positively impact and shape the lives of the children and young people to whom parents provide care.

The Fund:

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Supporting Parents, Parent Peer Support Fund to support statutory and community and voluntary organisations leading or co-ordinating peer support activities for parents and those in a parenting role. The activities funded should focus on building on existing or emerging best practice in the areas of parent peer support. We encourage applications from organisations already providing peer supports for parents and those wishing to launch new initiatives.

Aims of the Fund:

- To provide easier access to peer supports for parents, or those in a parenting role,
- Raise awareness of and create more parent peer support activities within statutory and community and voluntary sector settings
- Develop resources in partnership with parents rather than delivered to parents
- Encourage parent peer support groups in communities which have not previously had access to such a resource

Definition of Parent

The national Model defines a parent as any person with a parenting role, which is any person with primary or major responsibility for the care of a child under the age of 18 years. The term parent is applied in the most inclusive manner possible and includes biological parents, adoptive parents, foster carers, step-parents, kinship carers, and guardians.



Eligible Applicants:

The fund is open to practitioners and service providers working in the community, voluntary and statutory sectors, who work with parents, or those in a parenting role, to facilitate the development and support of parent peer support activities.

Funding Availability:

Funding up to a maximum of €2,000 per applicant is available on a one off basis only.

Eligible Costs:

- Advertising /promotional costs specific to the activity
- Parent peer to peer networking and knowledge sharing events
- Knowledge sharing tools or resource development
- Training workshops and seminars
- Parent peer coaching and mentoring programmes
- Facilitator fees
- Venue hire and catering
- Administration costs – not to exceed 15% of overall funding awarded

Ineligible Costs:

- Capital costs
- Equipment purchase & rental
- Costs already specifically covered by other funding including those who received funding under the Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative
- Travel costs

Application Process

The 2023 Parent Peer Support Fund is open for applications until Friday 15 December 2023.

Grant allocations will be awarded on a singular basis, up to a maximum of €2,000 per applicant. On-going funding will not be available.

Funding will be made available to successful applicants in February 2024.



All funding must be expended by 31 December of the year funding is awarded. Funding that has not been fully spent by this date must be returned to DCEDIY.

Selection and Assessment process

- Please submit your application by the closing date, no late applications will be accepted. You may be requested to send additional documents or information to support your application.
- The assessment criteria will be as follows:
 - Overall strength of project proposal by reference to planned activities
 - Degree to which the planned outcomes meet the goals of [the National Model](#).
 - Value for money
 - If approved, an appropriate small grant contract will be agreed, after which the funding will be released in 2024. Applicants who have been successful must agree to the Terms and Conditions of the DCEDIY contract.
 - All applicants will be notified in writing of the decision of the assessment panel. The assessment panel's decision is final.
 - The number of awards will be dependent upon the quality of applicants at the time of application. All awards are based on funding availability.
 - Canvassing will disqualify.

The following core criteria will apply:

- Applicants must agree to provide feedback on the delivery of the parent peer support activity as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the fund.
- Applicants must agree to including the Supporting Parents logo on any material relating to the delivery of activities under this funding.
- A post-delivery survey will be issued to successful applicants of the fund. Information sought will include the type of activities delivered, location, demographic information relating to attendees. Those who display best-practice supports may be invited to speak at the Supporting Parents Cross-Government Parenting Support Network – established to share learning and highlight best practice.
- Applicants must be based in the Republic of Ireland and make its impact in the Republic of Ireland.
- The Parent Peer Support Fund can only accept one application per region.

Monitoring and verification

Financial and activity monitoring and verification information and documents will be required on project completion, including:

- A financial and narrative report on the project within six weeks following completion of the proposed activities.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Grantees must comply with the Statement of Principles for Grantees of [Circular 13/2014](#), *Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds*.