An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland 2040

Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe
Our Rural Future

CLÁR 2024 Scheme Outline: Measure 2
Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responder and Meals on Wheels Transport Measure

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.

Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responder and Meals on Wheels Transport Measure

CLÁR 2024 will provide funding for Mobility, Cancer Care, First Responder and Meals on Wheels Transport support.

This measure will be operated directly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and is open to established organisations/groups that operate on a voluntary basis and provide:

- transport to/from day care/other medical/therapy/respite services for those with significant mobility issues including requiring specialised wheelchair accessible vehicles; or
- transport to/from designated cancer treatment hospitals/centres under the National Cancer Care Programme; or
- Community First Response Support/Search and Rescue organisations.
- Meals on Wheels services

Where applicant groups are members of a national/regional organisation, all sub-regional/national group applications must be submitted centrally by the parent organisation with an indication of their prioritisation of applications. In this context, the funding to such applications may be limited to €200,000 per organisation.

Eligible Costs

The scheme will cover the cost of a vehicle and/or the fit out of a vehicle where necessary. The Department encourages the purchase of hybrid/electric vehicles where possible.

Applicants should provide full details regarding the costs associated with the purchase and/or fit out of proposed vehicles. Conditions as follows:

1. Any vehicle funded must be in good condition and not more than 5 years old
2. Any vehicle funded is used solely for the activities outlined and not for any commercial transport routes.
3. The Department must be acknowledged with signage on the vehicle in accordance with the Department's Branding Guidelines. A visible, legible sticker on the side panel of the vehicle is sufficient as long as it follows the Department's branding guidelines acknowledging the CLÁR funding.
4. Only one vehicle per 'Branch' of regional/National organisation will be considered.
5. The Department must be advised of the main location of the vehicle (where it will be parked overnight) with the XY coordinates or Eircode provided.

The scheme will not cover any ongoing running costs such as insurance, maintenance, fuel etc. Applicant organisations will be required to outline how they will manage the ongoing operation of the vehicle.

Eligible Applicants

Support will be made available to all applicant groups/organisations that are formally established e.g. registered charity or not for profit etc. Support will not be made available to individuals or ad hoc groups for the purchase of cars. It will be necessary to provide:

- information/certification regarding the formal establishment of the group/organisation e.g. Memoranda and Articles of Association, and
- letter/email in support of the application from, e.g. HSE/GP/ Public Health Nurse/ An Garda Síochána or other service provider.

<u>Cancer Care/ Medical/Therapy/Respite Transport Organisations</u>

The measure is open to established organisations/groups that operate on a voluntary basis, and are involved in the provision of transport services, free of charge, to persons requiring

wheelchair accessible vehicles to access day care/other medical/therapy/respite services and/or those requiring transport to/from hospitals for treatments under the National Cancer Care Programme (list of designated hospitals/centres attached in Annex 2).

Community First Response Support/Search and Rescue Organisations

Given the nature of the possible activities and the need to ensure that support is made available to organisations/groups that are acceptable as part of the wider emergency response systems, applications will only be considered from organisations that can fully demonstrate how they engage with and are part of the emergency response systems. In that regard it will be necessary to provide information/certification regarding the formal establishment of the group/organisation and that also demonstrates the status of the group/organisation from either An Garda Síochána or the HSE, in support of the application.

Meals on Wheels Organisations

CLÁR 2024 is introducing support for the provision of vehicles for meals on wheels services. It is hoped that these vehicles will aid those people who are housebound, who have reduced mobility and otherwise isolated to avail of a hot meal.

Eligible CLÁR Area

In general, CLÁR eligibility is based on being physically located within a designated CLÁR DED. However, given the possible need to travel considerable distances to hospitals and other specialist facilities located in non-CLÁR areas, eligibility for this Measure will be based on the 'catchment area' being served by the vehicles.

It will be necessary for applicants to demonstrate that over 80% of the area in which the service is provided is within CLÁR areas. A listing of eligible CLÁR DED's is available on the Department's website at the following link. Evidence of the organisation's meeting this requirement at the time of application should be retained on file for a period of six years, where approved.

Rate of Aid

The scheme will provide up to 90% of the total cost of a hybrid or electric community wheelchair accessible vehicle (including fit-out) subject to a maximum grant of:

- €50,000 for a car/SUV
- €100,000 for a bus

The scheme will provide up to 80% of the total cost of a petrol or diesel community wheelchair accessible vehicle (including fit-out) subject to a maximum grant of:

- €50,000 for a car/SUV
- €100,000 for a bus

A match funding contribution of 10% for hybrid/electric vehicles and 20% for petrol/diesel vehicle is required. Philanthropic contributions may be accepted as full or part of match funding costs. **Match funding must be in place and evident at the time of application.**

Match funding cannot come from any other Department of Rural and Community Development Scheme.

Timelines

Scheme launch	12 April 2024
Applications due	5 June 2024
Funding awarded (indicative)	August 2024
Projects completed and drawdown	27 June 2025

Assessment Criteria

It should be noted that, in assessing the applications received, a number of factors will be considered including the indicated order of priority (where applicable); the range, mix, quality and impact of proposed projects; previous funding provided and other relevant considerations.

The applicant must ensure that the application form is fully completed and complies with the 2024 Scheme Outline.

Procurement Requirement

For the purposes of this application groups must source **at least one written detailed quotation from a supplier in respect of the supply and/or fit out of a vehicle.** This will be used for the assessment of costs but it is not sufficient if funding is approved.

As this grant involves the spending of public funds, it is essential that good value for money is derived from it. **If successful,** applicants are then required to comply with relevant public procurement guidelines. Further information can be found on www.etenders.gov.ie.

Guidance on this is available from the Office of Government Procurement (website: www.OGP.gov.ie; email: support@OGP.gov.ie).

Please note that a penalty may apply if public procurement guidelines are not followed.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted on the "Measure 2 - Mobility, Cancer Care, Community First Responders and Meals on Wheels Transport" application form. Applications should include supporting information requested in the application form including a detailed breakdown of all costs, evidence of match funding, quotation, letter of support, as previously outlined etc.

Grant Payment Arrangements

Groups should note that the payment of the grant will be in arrears on the basis of invoices marked as paid, i.e. after the group has purchased the vehicle. Groups may need to arrange bridging funding to cover the amount of the grant while awaiting this payment from the Department. However, it should be noted that the Department generally finalises this payment within a matter of days where the drawdown request is in order. **The vehicle must not be purchased prior to the announcement of successful applicants**.

Applications should be submitted directly to the Department at CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie by 5 June 2024.

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.

If you do not receive acknowledgment of receipt of your application within 10 working days, please contact the Department at the email address below.

Queries

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

Annex 1: 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.

1	Projects will be 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	A cash contribution as set out in the relevant Scheme Outline is required. The grantee will be required to confirm that the cash contribution is in place at time of application and retain a record of the source of the cash contribution. The Department may request evidence of same during the assessment process.
4	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 project. Any changes to the proposed project must be advised and agreed with the Department in advance of the change being implemented.
5	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.
6	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.
7	The National Public Procurement Policy Framework and appropriate corporate governance requirements must be complied with. Each grantee must fully account for the funding received.
8	Full and accurate documentation to support all expenditure and procurement 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.
9	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.
10	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.
11	Signage must be in place on all CLÁR funded projects. These signs must be on the vehicles purchased. They must be in a prominent location, of durable quality, acknowledge the CLÁR funding and be of sufficient size to be clearly visible to the public. These signs must follow the Department's Branding Guidelines.
12	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 the outputs and outcomes of the project funded should be completed and made available to the Department.
13	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.

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.

Annex 2: Regional Cancer Services

The NCCP is responsible for overseeing national services for the treatment of cancer. These treatments include surgery, radiotherapy and systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT). An early priority for the NCCP was the establishment of designated cancer centres for cancer surgery. The majority, but not all, cancer surgery now takes place in the designated cancer centres. Nine hospitals were designated as cancer centres (with a satellite unit in Letterkenny General Hospital).

There are nine designated cancer centres. A further 17 public hospitals provide systemic anti-cancer therapy (chemotherapy, immunotherapy etc.). Details of these are available on the map below. An additional two centres provide radiotherapy services.

Ireland's nine Designated Cancer Centres are aligned with the Hospital Group structure. The table below shows the Designated Cancer Centre in each Hospital Group and the former HSE administrative area for each.

Hospital Group	**Cancer Centre**
RCSI	**Beaumont University Hospital**
Ireland East	**Mater University Hospital**
	St Vincent's University Hospital
Dublin Midlands	**St James Hospital**
South/Southwest	**Cork University Hospital**
	Waterford Regional Hospital
Saolta University	**Galway University Hospital** (satellite: Letterkenny General Hospital)
University Limerick	**University Hospital Limerick**
Children's Health Ireland	**Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin**

For the most up to date information in relation to this, please refer to the HSE website.