

# Funding For Clare Community Projects

2nd January 2008

The Government's announcement this week that it is to provide additional community employment opportunities in Clare has been warmly welcomed by Minister of State and Clare T.D., Mr. Tony Killeen.

National funding of EUR20m for 2008/9, provided under the Community Services Programme, is being made available to community organisations groups and projects across the county.

*"These necessary funds importantly recognise the voluntary effort of local community groups throughout Ireland", stated Minister Killeen.*

*According to the Minister, "The Community Services Programme aims to support local community activity, to address disadvantage and provide local employment opportunities for certain groups of people. It currently provides funding to 11 community services and businesses in Clare, including community childcare services, services for older people and those with disabilities, rural transport initiatives and environmental projects."*

He urged local organisations to apply for funding following this week's announcement.

*"In order to qualify for funding under the Community Service Programme, organisations must operate on a not-for-profit basis. They must also recruit unemployed people to work in the project", he explained.*

Minister Killeen added that the Community Services Programme had greatly benefited numerous organisations in Clare.

*"I am delighted to see that 61 people are employed in eleven separate local projects currently funded by the Programme. The projects include Raidio Corca Baiscinn, Obair Environment Services Ltd, Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus Ltd, Ennistymon FRC, Kilrush Family Resource Centre, Burren Display Centre Ltd in Kilfenora, the Capparoo-based Irish Seed Saver Association Ltd, Obair Childcare Services Ltd, Shannon Social Economy Maintenance Services Ltd, Vandeleur Walled Garden Enterprises Ltd in Kilrush, and Clare Accessible Transport", he continued.*

The Community Services Programme is managed by Pobal, on behalf of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

# **Community Services Programme**

## **Purpose of the Community Services Programme**

The objective of the Programme is to support local community activity to address disadvantage, while also providing local employment opportunities.

## **What is funded under the Programme?**

The programme currently provides funding to over 350 community businesses, which provide both services and employment opportunities for persons who are disadvantaged. The activities of the projects are very varied and include:

- \* community childcare services,
- \* services for the elderly (excluding health care provision)
- \* services for people with disabilities (excluding health care provision),
- \* rural transport for isolated rural communities,
- \* managing community halls and facilities,
- \* rural tourism,
- \* community radio,
- \* recycling & environmental projects.

## **Requirements for funded organisations**

- \* Operate on a not for profit basis
- \* Fill positions through an open recruitment process
- \* Prioritise the unemployed in their recruitment processes. As a general principle, 70% of people recruited by the project must be from the following catchment groups:
- \* Unemployed persons in receipt of Unemployment Benefit, Unemployment Assistance or One Parent Family Payment
- \* Persons in receipt of Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension or Blind Persons Pension.
- \* Travellers in receipt of Unemployment Benefit or Unemployment Assistance or One Parent Family Payment.
- \* Ex-offenders.
- \* Stabilised addicts.

## **Funding is available for**

- \* Employment of Project staff
- \* Towards the cost of employing a project manager where appropriate
- \* Overheads and running costs of the project's activity.
- \* Start-up capital and equipment costs of the business, where appropriate
- \* Any specific training needs required within a project, e.g. HGV Licence training, computer skills training, etc.

## **How is the Programme Managed and Administered**

The Community Services Programme is administered by POBAL on behalf of the Department. The Department remains responsible for policy decisions in relation to the Programme.

**Contact:**

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<http://www.pobail.ie/en/CommunityVoluntarySupports/>

**White Paper** on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector

<http://www.pobail.ie/en/CommunityVoluntarySupports/WhitePaperonCommunityandVoluntaryActivity/file.2200.en.doc>

**Employer Resource Bureau for the Community Sector**

<http://www.erb.ie/>

[\*Planning Tools\*](#)

**Identifying Local Needs and Resources.doc**

<http://www.pobal.ie/media/Identifyinglocalneedsandresourcebwedit.doc>

**Strategic Planning.doc**

<http://www.pobal.ie/media/StrategicPlanningBWedit.doc>

**SWAT Analysis.doc**

<http://www.pobal.ie/media/SWOTToolkitBWEdition.doc>