 

**CLÁR 2017**

**Local Authority Measures**

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. The programme which was effectively closed for new applications since 2009, reopened in a limited but very successful way, in 2016.

**Funding Allocation for 2017**

There is an allocation of €5million in total for 2017, of which, up to €4.25 million is available under 3 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 (€0.75m)

Measure 3: Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (€1.5m)

**Timelines**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Scheme launch | 31st March |
| Applications to be received by the LA | 24th April  |
| Applications to be received by the Department | By May 5th |
| Assessment and decisions, contracts | By May 31st  |
| Drawdown of 50% of funding | Sept/Oct (progress dependent) |

**Numbers of Applications**

Up to a **total of 20 applications** between measures 1, 2 and 3, may be submitted by the Local Authority for consideration by the Department. Applications under measure 1 may include a number of elements at a single location (school or community facility) up to the maximum funding limit outlined in the measure.

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 (e.g. Clare has more than 120 District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) in CLÁR, whereas Wicklow only has 7).

Where applications are being submitted under more than one measure it would be useful in the context of the decision making process if the application indicated which projects the LA itself would prioritise in the context of planning at a local level.

Applications should be submitted on the relevant application form for each measure and relevant details inserted in the relevant template also.

**Grant Payment arrangements**

50% to Local Authority after partial completion

50% paid on completion of project

**Detailed Measures**

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

CLÁR 2017 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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Intervention**  | **Possible Funding to be allocated** |
| Purchase and replacement of Flashing Amber Safety Lights**.** | Max €7,000 per set |
| Purchase of Child safety signs  | Max €1,000 per sign |
| Purchase of digital speed safety signs, indicating that cars are entering a particular zone.  | Max €14,000 per set |
| Upgrade Road markings on approach roads to Schools/community facilities. | Max €1,000 |
| 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 |

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 costings (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**

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**

In the context of the level of queries received post the implementation of the 2016 CLÁR scheme, it is proposed to run a specific Play Areas measure as part of the 2017 Programme. CLÁR 2017 will consider support for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new School/Community Play areas.

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 costings (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.

**Measure 3: Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs**

This aim of this measure is to provide support for small to medium sized Community based capital/infrastructure projects that don’t qualify for other existing schemes. All applications must demonstrate that the project is **not** eligible for assistance under other existing schemes, show clear evidence of need, and benefit to the community.

Applications will be accepted from established Community Groups via the Local Authorities. Projects will be selected on the basis of:

* confirmation and evidence that the proposal is not eligible for funding under any other publicly-funded schemes, having regard to the criteria for those schemes.
* evidence that all necessary permissions are in place, where appropriate
* evidence, where applicable, that ownership/lease is in place
* full estimated costings
* evidence that match funding is in place
* clear evidence of need and benefit to the community, and
* relevance to the LECP/other plan.

The applications selected for submission to the Department should be approved by the LCDC to ensure that there are no conflicts with the LECP/other local plans and other programmes e.g. SICAP, those run by the LEO’s etc.

**Rate of Aid**

A minimum grant of €5,000 and a maximum grant of €50,000 for projects are available. The maximum grant rate will be 85% of the project cost or €50,000, whichever is the lesser. The remaining 15% 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