**Community Grants**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the purpose of Community Grants?**

The purpose of Community Grants is to provide financial support to community groups who are engaged in community initiatives, projects, events and activities in the administrative area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The grants support the delivery of the Council’s commitment to improve the quality of life for all its citizens.

**Who can apply for a community grant?**

Local community and voluntary groups may apply for a community grant to assist with the delivery of a community initiative, project, event or activity. The group must be properly constituted and the application must demonstrate a benefit to the local community. The group must also be registered with the Public Participation Network.

**Can a group apply for the full cost of a project/event/activity/initiative?**

No, a grant will only cover a percentage of a project and the group must demonstrate the financial capacity to match the funding.

**Can the grant be drawn down on receipt of grant approval?**

Yes, but the application to draw down the grant must be accompanied by the appropriate support documentation.

**Can a group apply for more than 1 grant?**

Yes, a group can apply for several grants under different categories provided each application relates to a different project/event/activity/initiative.

**Can a group apply under two categories for the same project/event/activity/initiative to maximise the funding granted?**

No, funding will only be awarded to proposals not already covered under another grant category.

**Can a group apply for a grant under a number of categories on one application?**

No, a separate application must be submitted for each grant category.

**What is the PPN?**

The Public Participation Network (PPN) aims to enable the public as well as local organisations to voice their views and interests within the local government system. It is the main framework for public participation and engagement. Membership is open to not for profit groups in the social inclusion, environmental and general community and voluntary sectors.

**Is every group required to register with the PPN to qualify for a grant?**

Groups working in the areas of Community, Sports, Arts, Residents Associations, groups working with people experiencing disadvantage/inequality and groups with a focus on protecting the environment and sustainability must register with the PPN in order to qualify for funding. Application forms for registering can be found on www.dlrppn.ie.

Other conditions apply to individual grant categories, e.g. an application under the category of Age Friendly Support must address specific needs of older people and demonstrate how it supports the delivery of the DLR Age Friendly Strategy.

**What is a Community Facilities Grant?**

This category covers two grant types:-

A Feasibility Grant is intended to give assistance to local community and voluntary groups to complete a feasibility study regarding the development of a community facility.

The Upgrading Community Facilities Grant allows for the refurbishment and/or redecoration of a facility which is used by the community.

**What is an Equipment Grant intended for?**

An equipment grant is intended for the purchase or replacement of agreed relevant equipment. It includes the purchase of major and minor equipment.

A Major Equipment Grant provides for the purchase of large items of equipment up to a maximum value of €3,000.

A Minor Equipment Grant provides for the purchase of smaller items of equipment up to a maximum value of €1,500.

**Can a group apply for an Equipment Grant each year?**

A Major Equipment Grant can only be applied for once every three years while a Minor Equipment Grant can be applied for every year.

**Does the Equipment Grant allow for the purchase of smart phones?**

No. Equipment Grants may be approved for laptops, tablets or desktop personal computers. Smart phones would not be covered by the scheme.

**What is a Community Activity Grant?**

A Community Activity Grant is intended to assist community and voluntary groups to promote local community activities. Examples include a community day, community week or a small event during the year.

**Who can apply for a Summer Project Grant?**

Community groups can apply for this grant to assist with the provision of supervised recreational and educational activities for young people during the summer period. Summer projects must cater for the local community and must run for a period of one, two or three weeks over the summer holiday.

Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council does not provide funding for any perishable or single-use items such as food, napkins, plastic cutlery etc.

**What is a Community Development Grant?**

This category includes grants to assist with:-

Start Up Costs for community and voluntary groups, including insurance costs, purchase of small items of equipment and rental costs for groups established within the previous six months, as per guidelines**.**

Training Support for groups involved in community development who require training related to community development, governance, committee skills etc. The training must be for a group of volunteers and not one person only.

Community Development Initiatives for projects which assist with the long term development of a group or area and which specifically address equality initiatives, anti-racism, social inclusion, research and implementation of information and communication technology.

Running Costs related to on-going running costs including insurance and facility hire for existing groups, as per guidelines.

**Who can apply for an Age Friendly Support Grant?**

The Age Friendly Support Grant is available to groups and organisations who wish to deliver specific supports and initiatives to enhance the quality of life of older people living and visiting the area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

**Is priority given to certain applications in the Age Friendly Support category?**

Priority will be given to initiatives which support the achievement of the Age Friendly Strategy with goals relating to enhancing the quality of life for older people as well as initiatives improving accessibility to the built environment or initiatives to reduce isolation or loneliness.

**What about Child Protection?**

Projects are responsible for ensuring that they meet all the requirements of child protection and Garda vetting legislation in Ireland, including the *Children First Act 2015*. Successful applicants must have policies and procedures in place prior to drawing down funds in accordance with national policy, namely, *Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children.*

**What is an IAD?**

An IAD is an identified area of disadvantage in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County.

**Do I have to acknowledge Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council?**

Yes, all successful applicants are required to acknowledge the financial assistance of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and include the Council’s logo on all printed matter.

**Where can I get more information?**

A copy of the full guidelines is available on the council’s website http://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/community/community-funding-support/community-grants or you can contact the Community Development and Social Inclusion Section on 01 2054893. You can also attend an online information session which are organised for the opening of the grant application cycle.

**Why was my application refused?**

An application can be refused on a number of grounds. The most common reasons are:

* The group did not demonstrate ability to match fund the project
* The group is not constituted and is not a voluntary community group
* DLR County Council does not fund the item i.e. smartphones are not funded and items considered a risk to the personal safety of groups are not funded.
* The application is vague and does not have enough information to allow the grant to be approved.
* Business organisations not eligible for funding
* The group applied for the same funding under another grant application within the Dun Laoghaire County Council.

**How can I improve my application?**

* Applications should be concise
* Applicants should use the checklist to ensure they submit all required documentation
* Applicants must meet the required deadline
* Applicants should ensure that they apply under the correct and most appropriate section
* Applicants should contact a community worker or area community officer to discuss their application or attend an online information session.