

# Funding from Government for Rural and Community Development

## Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

As part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund over the period 2019 to 2027. This Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. This funding is available to state bodies. The new Fund provides an unprecedented opportunity to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland, to make a significant and sustainable impact on rural communities, and to address de-population in small towns, villages and rural areas. Apply for funding directly from the Department of Rural and Community Development. For further information **contact: [rrdf@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:rrdf@dracd.gov.ie)**

## LEADER

€250 million in grant aid will be provided to rural communities and businesses under the 2014 -2020 Programme. Grant aid is provided to projects under the themes: Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation, Social Inclusion, and Rural Environment. The LEADER Programme is administered by Local Action Groups (LAGs). To apply for funding submit an Expression of Interest to the LAG in your area. For further information **contact: [RDP1420@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:RDP1420@dracd.gov.ie)**

## Community Enhancement Programme

This programme aims to enhance communities, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at local level. It provides capital to small scale infrastructure projects of a regenerative nature in disadvantaged areas. Local Community Development Committees administer this programme on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. For further information **contact: [cep@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:cep@dracd.gov.ie)**

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages by improving the living and working environment of communities and increasing the potential to support economic activity into the future. This scheme provides funding to increase the attractiveness of the town, or village, as a local commercial and social centre, as a place in which to live and work, enhance the environment and amenities, and promote the town or village's potential for tourism. The Department of Rural and Community Development takes recommendations from Local Authorities on funding for projects under this scheme. Local Authorities work in partnership with local businesses and communities to identify suitable projects. For further information **contact: [townandvillage@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:townandvillage@dracd.gov.ie)**

## TidyTowns

Volunteer committees have been making Ireland a more attractive place to live, work and to do business in. TidyTowns allows communities to feed into how their area develops. Approximately 900 communities enter the competition every year. The Department of Rural and Community Development has operated a grant scheme for entrants to TidyTowns. In addition to the formal recognition of performing well in the competition, monetary prizes are awarded to the winners. For more information **contact: [tidytowns@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:tidytowns@dracd.gov.ie)**

## Seniors Alert Scheme

This scheme provides personal monitored alarms to enable older persons to continue to live securely in their homes. This scheme is administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. To be eligible for funding, community and voluntary groups should register with Pobal. For further information **contact: [C&VSupports@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:C&VSupports@dracd.gov.ie)**

## The CLÁR Programme

This is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas by encouraging people to live and work there. Groups applying for funding for schools, community safety measures, play areas or sensory gardens should contact their Local Authority. Groups applying for First Response Support or Mobility or Cancer Care Transport should contact the Department of Rural and Community Development directly. For further information **contact: [clar@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:clar@dracd.gov.ie)**

## Local Improvement Scheme

This scheme carries out improvement works on private or non-public roads. Often these roads lead to multiple residences, parcels of land that support agricultural activity or amenities such as lakes, rivers or beaches. Local Authorities apply directly to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding under this scheme. If you have a road which may be eligible for funding, please contact your Local Authority in the first instance. For further information **contact: [lis@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:lis@dracd.gov.ie)**

## Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

This scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides for the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland. This investment helps to attract additional visitor numbers and opens new employment opportunities for local people. This scheme is administered by Local Authorities on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. For further information **contact: [cnat@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:cnat@dracd.gov.ie)**

## Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP aims to reduce disadvantage and poverty in Ireland by promoting social inclusion and to strengthen communities. SICAP works to support individuals from designated target groups and local community groups. SICAP is cofunded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Social Fund Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020. It is delivered by Programme Implementers in the Local Community Development Committees. To access funding under SICAP contact the Programme Implementer directly. For further information [contact\\_sicap@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:contact_sicap@dracd.gov.ie)

## Community Services Programme

This programme supports social enterprises to provide local services and create employment opportunities for disadvantaged people. A contribution is provided towards the costs of employing staff. There are three main types of projects funded under the programme:

1. Community halls and facilities available for community use which enable the day-to-day operation of community infrastructure.
2. Community services for disadvantaged people.
3. Community enterprises which tend to have an emphasis on employing people far from the labour market.

To apply for funding under this programme complete the Expression of Interest form, which is available from [www.dracd.gov.ie](http://www.dracd.gov.ie) and submit it to [csp@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:csp@dracd.gov.ie).

## PEACE IV

This is a cross-border Programme co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund supporting peace and reconciliation through actions that promote social and economic stability in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo). The PEACE IV Programme is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body on behalf of the Irish and UK Governments. For further information [contact: peace@dracd.gov.ie](mailto:peace@dracd.gov.ie)

## Project Ireland 2040

Project Ireland 2040 is the Government's overarching policy initiative to make Ireland a better country for all of us, a country that reflects the best of who we are and what we aspire to be.

Project Ireland 2040 is informed by the Programme for a Partnership Government 2016, which recognises that economic and social progress go hand in hand, as well as by the National Planning Framework (NPF) to 2040 and the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

The full participation of rural communities in strategic development, as envisaged under the NPF, is imperative to achieving the full potential of a broad range of strategic outcomes detailed in the National Development Plan.

In addition to supports listed from the Department of Rural and Community Development ([www.dracd.gov.ie](http://www.dracd.gov.ie)) a number of other Government Departments and Public Bodies also provide supports for rural communities, including:

**Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport**  
<http://www.dttas.ie/>

**Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht**  
<https://www.chg.gov.ie/>

**Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation**  
<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/>

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

**Local Authorities**

**Local Enterprise Offices**  
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/>



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## Government of Ireland Supporting Rural Communities