



Dormant Accounts Funded Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 Q&A Document for Local Community Development Committees

Q1 What is the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021?

The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 is one initiative being taken by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland.

This scheme aims to support social enterprises and is complementary to other supports provided by the Department.

It is a funding scheme that will provide social enterprises with small capital grants and is one of a number of schemes being funded from the Social Enterprise Measure of the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2021.

Q2 Is this scheme similar to the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP)?

The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme is similar to the CEP scheme, however there are some key differences. The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme is for Social Enterprises exclusively, and due to the rules of the Dormant Accounts Fund, successful applicants must be approved by the Minister for Rural and Community Development.

Q3 What is a social enterprise?

Social enterprises are businesses that work primarily to improve the lives of people. Their core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. Like other businesses, Social Enterprises pursue their objectives by trading in goods and services on an ongoing basis. However, surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving their core social objectives. They frequently work to support disadvantaged groups such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, the Traveller community, etc.,

or to address issues such as food poverty, social housing, or environmental matters.

Examples of Prominent Social Enterprises Include:

Food Cloud who redistribute surplus food from supermarkets to charities such as Vincent de Paul;

Rehab Recycling, who employ people with disabilities in waste recycling;

Speedpak, who provide customised packaging and distribution services for other companies as a means of providing work experience and training to the long-term unemployed; and **Vantastic**, who provide transport services to people with mobility problems.

Q4 What is the Dormant Accounts Fund?

The Dormant Accounts Acts 2001-2012, together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003, provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions and unclaimed life assurance policies.

The main purpose of the legislation is to reunite account or policy holders with their funds in credit institutions or insurance undertakings, however, in order to utilise the un-used funds in dormant accounts and unclaimed policies the legislation also introduced a scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed from dormant accounts and unclaimed policies for the purposes of measures to assist:

- The personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
- The educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged; or
- Persons with a disability.

Q5 Who is administering the Social Enterprise Capital Grants scheme?

The scheme will be co-ordinated by the Department of Rural and Community Development, but administered locally by the network of LCDCs.

DRCD will provide templates for application forms etc. that may be tailored for use by each LCDC.

The Application process will be handled locally and a list of recommended projects will be compiled by each LCDC. This will be returned to DRCD for approval by the Minister for Rural and Community Development.

Each LCDC will make payment of the grant to successful applicants and will monitor the projects to ensure the funding is used correctly.

When referring to the scheme it will be important to reference the DAF and DRCD along with the role of the LCDCs, using each organisation's logo when appropriate.

Q6 When will the scheme be run?

LCDCs may decide the timeline for the scheme in their own area, but the final date for each stage of the process must be no later than the dates shown in the table below.

Scheme Launch/Announcement	w/c 30 August 2021
Online guidance webinar	22 September 2021
Applications to be received by LCDC	(No later than) 15 October
Assessment Summary Reports to DRCD	(No later than) 29 October 2021
DRCD Approvals to LCDCs	(No later than) 12 November 2021
Applicants Notified of Results by LCDCs	(No later than) 19 November 2021
Single payments issued to each LCDC	(No later than) 19 November 2021
Final Date for reimbursement of claims by social enterprises	(No later than) 8 April 2022

Q7 How can I tell if an organisation is a social enterprise?

The National Social Enterprise Policy 2019 – 2022 defines social enterprise as follows:

A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders. It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives. It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and is independent of the public sector. If dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.

If an organisation fits this definition then they are deemed to be a social enterprise and eligible to be considered for funding under this scheme.

Applicants will be required to confirm that their organisation meets the definition of a social enterprise as set out in the National Policy, however, LCDCs should satisfy themselves that any recommended projects are from social enterprises. There is still some confusion among some organisations about whether or not they are social enterprises so it is likely that some

organisations may declare themselves as social enterprises where they do not fulfil all of the criteria.

Q8 Is there a specific Social Enterprises Legal Form?

No. It is possible for a social enterprise to be one of many legal forms. Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) is the most predominant legal form for a social enterprise in Ireland, but social enterprises can be one of many legal forms. Additionally, social enterprises may or may not be registered charities.

Q9 What kind of projects will the Scheme fund?

Under this social Enterprise Small Capital Grants Scheme 2021, grants will be provided to social enterprises towards small scale capital projects. Capital costs incurred by social enterprises for the purchase of equipment are eligible. Repairs and refurbishment of existing facilities can also be funded.

Q10 What kind of expenditure will NOT be funded under the scheme?

The scheme does not provide funding for operating costs (e.g. the employment of staff, electricity costs, heating costs, etc.) or administrative costs. It should also be noted that expenditure incurred before the date of grant approval will not be eligible for funding.

Q11 How much funding is available in each Local Authority area?

There is €1M available to fund the scheme in 2021. The available funding in each local authority area is based on a calculation of the population and relative deprivation of each area. Appendix A shows the actual amounts available to each Local Authority.

Q12 Who decides which social enterprises will receive funding under the scheme?

Based on the applications received, each LCDC will submit to DRCD a list of projects from their area that they recommend for funding. The Minister for Rural and Community Development will approve the successful projects.

APPENDIX A

Amounts to be allocated to each Local Authority area

Local Authority	Amount
Carlow	€21,521.61
Cavan	€22,061.95
Clare	€26,471.82
Cork City	€40,629.33
Cork County	€43,173.51
Donegal	€46,272.04
Dublin City	€98,059.98
Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown	€29,265.94
Fingal	€37,510.50
Galway City	€19,805.93
Galway County	€30,533.17
Kerry	€29,560.47
Kildare	€35,053.13
Kilkenny	€23,592.80
Laois	€23,793.59
Leitrim	€16,638.07
Limerick	€39,883.29
Longford	€19,737.04

Louth	€32,631.35
Mayo	€32,299.06
Meath	€30,035.10
Monaghan	€19,919.32
Offaly	€25,779.48
Roscommon	€20,635.12
Sligo	€21,402.29
South Dublin	€56,010.55
Tipperary	€36,696.52
Waterford	€31,608.64
Westmeath	€23,839.20
Wexford	€37,063.30
Wicklow	€28,515.90