

# Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien announce €1.7m COVID-19 supports for community and voluntary groups

From [Department of Rural and Community Development](#)

Published on 7 December 2020

Last updated on 7 December 2020

An additional €1.7 million is being provided by the Government to support community and voluntary groups to deal with COVID-19.

The funding, under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, is in recognition of the important role played by community and voluntary organisations across the country as we head towards the Christmas period.

The additional investment was confirmed today by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD.

The funding will enable groups to embrace the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign which focusses on the themes of staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

It brings the total funding provided under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to €4.2 million in 2020.

The funding will be used to assist local community and voluntary groups to adapt to COVID-19, for example:

- Allow for changes to premises to provide for social distancing;
- Funding for on-line activities;
- Provision of critical social supports.

## **Announcing the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, Minister Humphreys said:**

“COVID-19 has brought the term ‘Community’ to the fore. I want the community spirit that we have shown in recent months to remain post COVID.

“The little things like checking in on a neighbour makes such a difference. Our community and voluntary groups have played a crucial role during this Pandemic and it's so important that we support them.

“That’s why I’m delighted we are providing this additional funding to support our community and voluntary groups who are in turn assisting significant numbers of vulnerable people to get through this crisis.”

**Also welcoming the funding, Minister O’Brien said:**

“2020 has been the most difficult year imaginable. And yet, every step of the way, our community and voluntary groups have gone above and beyond to show their true colours.

“These individual grants will generally be modest in nature, however it is expected that higher amounts will be provided where the need is greatest.”

The Department of Rural and Community Development has allocated a total of €1.7 million in funding to Local Authority areas, and Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) will now administer the funding to groups in each area.

Groups should check with their LCDC or their Local Authority for further details.

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors:**

**Details of the allocation to each local authority area are set out in the table below.**

**Local Authority area Allocation, €**

Carlow	44,656
Cavan	45,169
Clare	49,351
Cork City	62,778
Cork County	65,191
Donegal	68,130
Dublin City	117,246
Dun Laoghaire	52,001
Fingal	59,820
Galway City	43,029
Galway County	53,203
Kerry	52,280
Kildare	57,490
Kilkenny	46,621
Laois	46,811
Leitrim	40,025
Limerick	62,071
Longford	42,964
Louth	55,193
Mayo	54,878

Meath	52,730
Monaghan	43,137
Offaly	48,694
Roscommon	43,815
Sligo	44,543
South Dublin	77,366
Tipperary	59,048
Waterford	54,223
Westmeath	46,854
Wexford	59,396
Wicklow	51,290

- The funding provided to each Local Authority area is outlined in the above table. The funding has been allocated by providing a baseline amount to each area and allocating the remainder based on the relative population and disadvantage level in each area. This methodology uses census figures and the Pobal Hasse deprivation index.
- The funding is administered locally by [Local Community Development Committees \(LCDCs\)](#) across the country, with support from their Local Authority. Applications for funding can be made to the [relevant LCDC](#).
- The grants under this fund to assist local community and voluntary groups to **adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality** are consistent with an action assigned to our Department under the [Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19](#). It will seek to assist their participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes that are most reliant on their involvement: **staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood**.
- The fund provides grants to help **animate community groups to enable them to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign**. Further details on this campaign are available [here](#).