



Community Services Programme

2008 Call

Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status that manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU.



Explaining the Community Services Programme 2008 call today...

- Danielle Byrne, programme manager
- Kevin Moran, appraisal support officer

- Review 2006 & 2007 calls
- Criteria & three strands of 2008 call
- Selection and submission of applications & expressions of interest to Pobal

Status of 2007 call

- Applications for Supervising community halls & facilities and expressions of interest for Community Media submitted end of October 2007
- Expressions of Interest for Traveller Services submitted end November.
- Recommendations re Community Halls & facilities to Department in January 2008
- Recommendations re expressions of interest submitted to Dept in February 2008.
- Business plan briefing likely in April or May 2008
- With three months allowed for business planning.

2007 call recommendation rate

- **Community halls:** 47 applications
 - 34 recommendations for funding 72%
 - 7 not recommended 15%
 - 6 ineligible 13%
- **Community Media:** 15 expressions of interest
 - 8 recommended to develop a business plan 53%
 - 7 not recommended 47%
- **Services for or Employing Travellers:** 15 expressions of interest received
 - 9 recommended to develop a business plan 60%
 - 2 not recommended 13%
 - 3 ineligible 20%
 - 1 incomplete 7%

Status of 2006 call

- Expressions of interest received in July 2006,
- Recommendations presented to Department at end of September,
- Applicants notified by Dept early November,
- Invited to business plan briefings in early December 2006,
- Submission deadline for business plans mid February 2007
- First (majority) phase of recommendations and approvals May – August 2007
- *A second phase of recommendations and approvals followed for applicants of weak, incomplete and/or ineligible plans, encouraged to amend / develop and resubmit. Now concluded.*

2006 call approvals

- 254 expressions of interest submitted
- 126 eois invited to submit business plans
- 112 finally submitted
- 76 approved (or likely to be)
- 32 not approved for funding
- 4 decisions deferred

Value of 2008 call

- Value of 2008/09 call = €20M
- Predicted as 130 new CSP contracts
- Possibly nearer to 200.
- We want to double the success rate of the 2006 call.
- We are here to help you in any practicable way.

Before we explain the 2008 call, we encourage and exhort you to obtain individual feedback on their 2006 and 2007 submissions – this could make a big difference in their 2008 results.

General reminder

- The Community Services Programme has its own distinctive characteristics and criteria. To get the most out of the programme for your communities, you need to understand these criteria and avoid applications which ...
 - Are really based on the old FAS social economy programme.
 - Or are really CE/JI labour market schemes.
 - Or are based on a CDP activity such as capacity building, pre-development, training etc.

Overall programme purpose vs specifics

- The overall purpose of the Community Services programme is to support voluntary and community groups **to provide essential services and businesses to their communities**. The provision of these services will:-
 - Alleviate disadvantage in those communities
 - Promote social and economic development within the communities
 - Provide employment for those most distant from the labour market
 - Promote the sustainable and inclusive development of the communities
 - Strengthen local ownership through participation in decision-making.
- The Department has been clear that within the overall purpose each call singles out specific types of services or disadvantaged groups that may be considered for support.

Universal criteria

First criterion: not-for-profit.

All applicants must be (or become) appropriately constituted as a company limited by guarantee or as an industrial and provident society (co-operative) and not displace commercial activity.

Second criterion: employment of 70% of funded workers from....

- Unemployed persons in receipt of unemployment benefit, unemployment assistance or one parent family payment.
- Persons in receipt of disability allowance, invalidity pension, blind persons pension or other disability benefit.
- Travellers in receipt of unemployment benefit or unemployment assistance or one parent family benefit.
- Stabilised and recovering drug misusers.
- People employed from Community Employment (CE) and Job Initiatives (JI) schemes are deemed eligible. RSS workers who are former CE placements are also eligible. CSP funding is not intended to replace an existing CE scheme.
- Ex-prisoners.

A CSP-supported manager is not required to be recruited from these groups.

2008 CSP call specifics

- **To be eligible** all applications and expressions of interest **must fit the specific call criteria.**
- The 2008 specific criteria are similar to previous years but are presented in a different way, which we hope will help intermediaries and applicants understand the programme's requirements.
- **This is still a social enterprise programme and the 2008 call comprises three strands – three different types of community enterprise**

Strand 2 Community Services

- Will support community enterprises and groups to provide practical local services to disadvantaged people, including :
 - people with disabilities,
 - elderly,
 - island communities,
 - Travellers,
 - recovering drug mis-users,
 - other disadvantaged groups may also be considered as part of the customer base.
- Practical, local services.
- **The proposal should clearly define the service and its intended users/beneficiaries**, and demonstrate need for the service and its expected positive impact on their quality of life.
- Capable of securing sufficient income from trading and other sources in order to deliver a properly resourced and viable service.
- It must be possible to deliver the proposed service, staffed by individuals from the employment categories on previous slide

Strand 2 examples & exclusions

- **Examples of local services currently funded by the Programme:**
 - transport for people with disabilities, meals on wheels, home insulation, visitation and security for the elderly and housebound, gardening and household assistance, a variety of centre-based services, laundry services for e.g. Travellers, elderly & house-bound, sports provision for people with disabilities, socialisation activities for socially isolated groups.
- **Exclusions**
 - CSP will not fund services which the Department considers to be more properly funded by other programmes: childcare, enterprise centres, care assistants, community development workers (including youth workers), citizens information and advice centres, health service delivery, IT or other training projects, advocacy, mediation and counselling.

Strand 3: MDLM Community Enterprises

- Strand 3 will support community enterprises to employ individuals “most distant from the labour market”:
 - Travellers,
 - people with disabilities,
 - recovering substance abusers
 - and ex-prisoners.
- The proposal must be from a community-owned and based social enterprise.
- The applicant must demonstrate that they will not displace commercial enterprises.
- The proposer must demonstrate appropriate supports for the target employment groups and the positive impact which the employees will derive from their employment.
- The eventual business plan must address both the social *and* enterprise aspects of the proposal.

Strand 3 examples & exclusions

- **Examples**

- Examples of community enterprises currently funded by the Programme include: crafts, recycling and repair industries, local services, community shops, retail and catering.

- **Exclusions**

- This strand is not intended to replace or duplicate CE, JI or RSS schemes.
- Proposals that out-place CSP-funded workers in third party organizations may not be considered.

Applying for Strands 2 & 3

- Grant calculated on basis of contribution to FTE workers' wages: minimum wage.
- Approx €4K per FTE “non-wage” annual grant towards overheads.
- Where awarded, €32,200 p.a. contribution to a manager's salary.
- Maximum contract value for these strands = 10 FTES & manager, so approx €270K p.a.
- Applicant will need to generate own income to top up wages and meet other costs.
- Application by : expressions of interest at this stage; business plan then invited.
- **Business plan development grant may be awarded: max €5K but average = €2K.**

Strand 1 Supervising Community Halls and Facilities

- **Purpose: to enable community halls and facilities to be open and run on a day to day basis and be available for community use.**
- By Community Hall or Facility we mean premises that are community-owned and run, and that are available for use by the local community.
- This strand is therefore confined to relatively small grants of up to €46,000 a year to contribute towards the costs of employing up to two full time equivalent workers (further details in application materials).
- Grants are typically awarded on a three year contract.
- All CSP grants are awarded on a community enterprise model: applications must factor in other sources of income (e.g. room rental), support in kind and other resources which demonstrate an adequately resourced and viable proposal.

Strand 1 exclusions and exceptions

- **Exclusions**

- CSP cannot consider applications for premises which are at the planning stage and have not been built.
- Enterprise centres are not eligible for consideration.
- The programme does not fund capital works.
- Community development activities and educational programmes are not eligible for funding.

- **Exceptional grants**

- This strand is normally confined to smaller grants to support the employment of one or two workers.
- In 2008, the programme may consider supporting a greater staffing level, up to a maximum of four FTEs for very large facilities.
- Where the size of the community facility also warrants, a grant towards the employment of a premises manager may be considered.
- Applications for larger grants will only be considered where a demonstrable case is made that the facility serves a high density of population and disadvantage, with a commensurable level and range of activities.

Applying for strand 1 Community Halls & Facilities

- **Single stage: application form only (decisions likely in October/November 2008).**
- Grant calculated on basis of contribution to FTE workers' wages: minimum wage.
- Maximum of two FTEs.
- Approx €4K per FTE "non-wage" annual grant towards overheads
- Maximum contract value = €46K
- Exceptional grant for large facilities = up to 4FTEs (€92K)
- Exceptional manager's contribution for very large facilities: €32,200
- Applicant will need to generate own income to top up wages and meet other costs.

Permitted number of submissions

- **Up to a maximum of six**
- Community Halls & Facilities: **2**
- Community Services: **2**
- Community Enterprises MDLM: maximum of **2**
- If you do not want to use up your allocation of two Community Enterprises MDLM, you can reallocate these two to the other strands (*either/or*)

So possible maximum of 6 submissions, as follows

1. Community Hall
2. Community Hall
3. Community Service
4. Community Service
5. MDLM Community enterprise (or Community hall or Community Service)
6. MDLM Community enterprise (or Community hall or Community Service)

Deadlines

- Local applicants to submit to you by 31 May
- Your Integrated Local Development Body to submit to Pobal by 30 June.

Submission by Integrated Local Development Body

- Instruction of Department
- We have interpreted this to mean your shadow ILDB board or steering group or other cohesion structure.
- We advise the Department re submitting body and *they* make final decision on eligibility.

Identification & selection of applications and Eols

- Some of you have own processes and local criteria and we would not presume to dictate.
- By request we are including some examples of consultations techniques on the intermediary page of our web site. You are welcome to submit your own practices /ideas.
- Our appraisal support officers are available to attend community events. Some areas which availed of this in 2007 improved on their 2006 performance.
- Practices in various parts of the country included mail shots, advertising, community events.

Your selection of submissions.

- You may want to look at the CSP appraisal criteria – on our website but no need to replicate our processes.
- Up to you to identify local priorities and gaps in service provision.
- Up to you to match local priorities against CSP criteria to find those applications and expressions of interest with the double-fit.

Our advice for when selecting applications & EOs

- Do submit your strongest applications & Eols.
- Do get an enterprise person to check over for viability.
- Do weed out ineligible applications/eois
- And obviously weak applications e.g. incomplete forms.
- No hand written, scanned or faxed applications
- Please don't submit applications or Eols from the CSP exclusions list.
- Don't try to consolidate individual applications into one Eol to appease applicants.
- Please don't submit proposals which are 100% dependent on CSP funding.
- Please avoid CE-type placement schemes.

More information

- CSP phone number 01 448 4828
- Appraisal support officer can visit, talk.
- Intermediaries page on our website.