

Pobal, on behalf of the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA), would like to announce the Early Years Capital 2015 programme. DCYA has secured €7 million for Early Years Capital Programme 2015 (EYC2015). EYC2015 is open to early years settings currently providing services under at least one of the three Department of Children & Youth Affairs National Government programmes, Community Childcare Subvention (CCS), Training Education Childcare (TEC) or Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

EYC2015 will provide small grants for ICT equipment to existing private and community-based Early Years services to ensure all services are adequately equipped to fully engage in quality improvement programmes and to access the Pobal online administration system PIP (Programmes Integration Project).

In addition Early Years Capital 2015 will continue to support community facilities to remain fit-for-purpose, improve quality, and make community services more efficient and sustainable through improving the energy rating of these facilities

### **Funding strands**

To achieve the programme objectives the available funding has been divided into four strands:

Strand 1 - Relocation/Major Refurbishment of community-based early years services

Strand 2 - Essential Maintenance of community-based early years services

Strand 3 - Quality Improvement & Sustainability for community-based early years services.

Strand 4 - Quality Improvement ICT upgrade for private and community-based early years services.

Community- based services can make applications against ONE only of Strands 1, 2 or 3 and additionally against Strand 4. Private providers can make ONLY ONE application against Strand 4 per facility. Applicants must prioritise their needs and only make applications against the most appropriate strand.

NB – All funding must be fully spent and fully reported by 31st December 2015.

Further information and application forms will be available on the PIP portal from 29th April 2015. The closing date for applications is the 28th May 2015. All queries about the programmes should be sent to [onlinesupport@pobal.ie](mailto:onlinesupport@pobal.ie).

## **Strand 1 Relocation/Major Refurbishment of community-based early years services**

NB: Strand 1 applicant must submit a pre- application by 6th May 2015

Grants expected to be in the region of €500,000 for large scale works.

What can be funded?

Strand 1 funding is aimed at groups who have an opportunity to move their service to more suitable location e.g. where a premises has been made available to the group but will need works to make it suitable for the delivery early years services, or where the current facility requires major refurbishment work in order to be fit for purpose.

All capital works pertaining to the relocation/refurbishment of the early years service only are eligible for funding. Professional fees (e.g. architect, project manager) to a maximum of 10% of total project costs can also be included.

What will I need to make an application?

Successful applications will be those which can best demonstrate the “readiness” of the project to proceed and those that can demonstrate an urgent need for the project. Applications where planning permission has been obtained, tendering is complete, have documentation to support the need for the project and have a clear focus on disadvantage will score best under appraisal.

## **Strand 2: Essential Maintenance of community-based early years services**

Grants up to maximum €50,000 for maintenance works to ensure facilities remain fit for purpose.

What can be funded?

General maintenance works that will ensure that the building remains fit-for purpose and maintain quality standards within the facility. For example:

- maintenance to the fabric of the building e.g. roof repairs,
- works to maintain facility security e.g. replacement fencing/shutters,
- replacement of worn and dilapidated fixtures and fittings.

What will I need to make an application?

Successful applications will be those which can best demonstrate the need for the project. Applicants will need to submit documentation that supports the need e.g. a Tusla report, Architect/Engineer’s report, photographic evidence etc. You will also need three quotes for all proposed works over €5,000 and one quote for all works of €5000 or less.

### **Strand 3: Quality Improvement & Sustainability for community-based early years services.**

Grants up to maximum €50,000 for medium-scale works to improve the Building Energy Rating (BER) of early years facilities.

What can be funded?

Projects that will have immediate or short term, medium/high impact on the energy rating of the building. For example:

- building insulation,
- replacement of windows and doors,
- draught stripping,
- improving water and heating systems,
- installation of thermostatic controls.

An allowance of up to €200 can be claimed as part of the total grant against the cost of the BER Advisory Report and should be included in the quotes template.

What will I need to make an application?

All applications submitted under Strand 3 must be supported by a BER Advisory Report. A BER Advisory Report must be undertaken by a registered non-domestic BER assessor. A list of registered assessors can be found on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) website at [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie).

You will also need three quotes for all proposed works over €5,000 and one quote for all works of €5000 or less.

### **Strand 4: Quality Improvement ICT upgrade for private and community-based early years services.**

Grants up to maximum €500 for the upgrade of ICT equipment.

What can be funded?

ICT equipment included in the list below which will be for use in early years facility only.

- PCs/Laptops,
- Satellite for Broadband access (where broadband is otherwise inaccessible),
- Printer /Scanners,
- Cameras/video equipment.

What will I need to make an application?

Applicants will need to obtain one quote for each item from the above list they wish to purchase. Quotes can be from the catalogues or websites of your supplier.