



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthai Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



Realising our
Rural Potential
Action Plan for Rural Development

CLÁR 2017

First Response Support Measure (€0.75m)

Background

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage. The aim of CLAR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local/Agency and other Departmental funding programmes and on the basis of locally identified priorities. The programme which was effectively closed for new applications since 2009, reopened in a limited but very successful way, in 2016.

Funding Allocation for 2017

There is an allocation of €0.75million under the CLÁR programme for the **First Response Support Measure**. This measure will be operated directly by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs and is open to established organisations/groups that operate **entirely on a voluntary basis**, and are involved in emergency rescue/first response efforts. It is important that applicant groups/organisations can demonstrate that they are formally established e.g. registered charity or not for profit etc. and are recognised as an acceptable supplementary support body by public service bodies such as An Garda Síochána and the HSE in relation to such activities.

Given the nature of the possible activities involved in relation to this measure and the need to ensure that support is made available to organisations/groups that are acceptable as part of the wider emergency response systems; applications will only be considered from organisations that can fully demonstrate this. In that regard it will be necessary to provide information/certification regarding the formal establishment of the group/organisation and also that demonstrates the status of the group/organisation from either An Garda Síochána or the HSE in support of the application.

Timelines

Scheme launch	31 st March
Applications to be received by the Department	By May 5 th
Assessment and decisions	By May 31 st
Drawdown of funding	Sept/Oct (progress dependent)

Detailed Measure Outline

Measure 4: First Response Support Measure

Recognising the critical role that first responders play in communities, particularly in the context of rescue efforts from remote and often hard to reach rural areas, CLÁR 2017 will consider support for established organisations that operate **entirely on a voluntary basis** and are currently involved in emergency rescue/first response efforts, to allow for the replacement of old and/or upgrade of existing vehicles/equipment directly involved in emergency rescue/first response efforts.

It will be necessary for applicants to demonstrate that the majority of their activities relate to emergency/first response/rescue situations as distinct from more routine, non-emergency, situations.

In the normal course CLÁR eligibility is based on projects being physically located within a designated CLÁR DED. Given the nature of the activities envisaged as well as the need to travel considerable distances in some cases to assist in rescue efforts and the need to maintain vehicles/equipment in practical/convenient locations, eligibility in this instance will be based on the 'catchment area' being served by the equipment and by demonstrating that the majority (at least 80%) of the need can be attributed to CLÁR DED's.

Rate of Aid

The scheme will provide up to 85% of the total cost of the equipment being applied for or a maximum of €50,000, whichever is the lesser. A match funding element of 15% is required.

Grant Payment arrangements

Grant payment arrangements will be in arrears and the details of payment will be agreed with the successful grant recipient directly.

Application Process

Applications should include detailed costings (estimates at this point) and supporting documentation. Successful applicants will be required to comply with relevant public procurement guidelines. Documentation should provide a clear evidence base for the assistance being requested and should be submitted directly to the Department at clar@ahg.gov.ie, by the 5th of May and on the attached application. Any queries in relation to this scheme should be submitted to the Department via clar@ahg.gov.ie also.