



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
AN ROINN DLJ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLJ

INFORMATION LEAFLET

CHILDCARE PROGRAMME 2006 - 2010

The new Childcare Programme 2006 - 2010 announced on 7 December 2005, will come into effect on 1 January 2006 and will succeed the existing Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP) 2000 - 2006.

The EOCP will continue to be operational in parallel with the New Programme until all applications on hand are processed and commitments are honoured, and the drawdown & verification of existing grant allocations are fully complete.

From 1 January 2006, both the Childcare Programme 2006-2010 and the EOCP will be managed by the Childcare Directorate. Pobal (formerly known as ADM Ltd) will continue to implement the day to day operation of the EOCP as well as taking on this role under the Childcare Programme 2006 - 2010.

The Childcare Programme 2006 - 2010 will build on the existing EOCP Programme and will incorporate the following number of key objectives.

- Increase the supply and improve the quality of early childhood care and education services, part-time and full day care, school age childcare and childminding.
- Support families and breaking the cycle of disadvantage.
- Support a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of childcare which is centred on the needs of the child.

New Programme Priorities:

The Childcare Programme 2006-2010 aims to provide a proactive response to the development of quality childcare supports and services which are grounded in an understanding of local needs. The County and City Childcare Committees will play a key role in the implementation of the new Programme to enable greater flexibility and responsiveness to local needs.

The following services will be eligible for support: those providing care for babies, full day care, part time places, pre-school places, school age childcare including "wrap around" childcare places and childminding. Special consideration will be given to support services which provide a range of the above.

NEW PROGRAMME FUNDING

Developing the Childcare infrastructure, enhancing and increasing the supply of quality childcare.

Private Sector Capital Funding	Community/Not for Profit Sector Capital Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new capital grant scheme for private sector childcare providers will come into operation on 1 January 2006.• Applicants may apply for grant assistance of up to €100,000, towards the capital cost of developing a childcare service facility in a catchment area where there is a demonstrated childcare need.• An applicant may apply for more than one grant under this scheme, provided the subsequent childcare facilities are in different catchment areas and subject to an overall ceiling of €500,000 per applicant.• In each case, an applicant must provide at least 25% of the total funding required for the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An expanded capital grant scheme for community/not for profit sector childcare providers will come into operation on 1 January 2006.• Groups may apply for grant assistance based on a demonstrated childcare need in the area.• The level of funding granted will be determined by the number of places which the group proposes to provide.• The maximum grant payable per project is not expected to exceed €1,000,000.• Capital grant applications from community/not for profit groups will take account of the sustainability of a project.
Full details of the criteria will be available shortly	Full details of the criteria will be available shortly

Other Capital

Arrangements are being made for the introduction of an improved capital grant scheme to assist Childminding services and a new capital grant scheme to assist Parent and Toddler Groups.

Expression of interest forms for the new Programme funding lines are expected to be available in early January 2006.

Supporting the community based sector to develop sustainable quality childcare

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants may apply for grant assistance towards the staffing costs of their childcare services, where the projects demonstrate a need for support for either of the following.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding in the initial start up / support phase for community not for profit services where there is a demonstrated level of disadvantage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to support families and communities to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services whose client base represents a cross section of society will be expected to become sustainable over the short to medium term.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of poverty and disadvantage will be determined by a number of factors including, in particular, the geographic location (e.g. RAPID and CLAR areas) as well as taking account of factors specific to the service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services will be required to operate a tiered system of charges, based on parental ability to pay
<p>Full details of the criteria will be available shortly</p>

Note: The staffing grant commitments made to the community based groups under the EOCP will continue until 31 December 2007. These groups will be free to apply under the new staffing lines approx 6 months prior to the end of their EOCP funding term.

Further Information will be available shortly on:

www.justice.ie or by telephoning the Childcare Directorate at Lo Call 1800 20 90 30	www.pobal.ie or by telephoning Pobal (formerly know as ADM Ltd.) at 01 240 0727
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