

Developing Sports and physical Activity In Disadvantaged Areas

20th January 2021



HEALTH WARNING!

Guidance Only

- Sports Capital Operating Rules for next round of funding (2021) is now live
- The Workshop is designed to support Local Community Groups to develop adaptable project plans for socially inclusive actions
- In the 2018 programme valued at €37 million, there were 42 successful applicants from Co Wexford to the value of €1,255,152

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The Role of WLD

- Community Development – focuses on areas of higher social need; areas with high levels of unemployment; where lack of transport is an issue; etc. (Deprivation Scales: CSO Data 2016)
- Equality of access is crucial
- Supports to Communities: Grant aid (LEADER); capacity building/skills development with local groups (SICAP); TUS/RSS – provision of workers

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Interagency partnership



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Sport – Good for Communities

- Included in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion is the statement that “In addition to promoting a healthy lifestyle, sport contributes a sense of identity and belonging and brings people together in positive and social community settings.
- You need to Refer to **National Sports Policy 2018 -2027**
- <http://www.dttas.ie/sites/default/files/publications/sport/english/national-sports-policy-2018-2027/national-sports-policy-2018.pdf>
- Wexford Local Development is supporting the social inclusion aspect of sport through programmes such as SICAP, TUS/RSS and LEADER where local projects are aided to develop opportunities and actions within local communities across the county – with a particular focus on equality

The Sports Capital Programme is the primary means of providing Government funding to sport and community organisations at local, regional and national level throughout the country.

The Sports Capital & Equipment Programme (SCEP) is operated by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and provides grants to assist in the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment.

The Programme aims to foster an integrated and planned approach to the development of sports and physical recreation facilities and assists the purchase of non personal sports equipment.

The Programme operated since 1998 , with the last round of funding allocated in 2019

The stated objectives of the Sports Capital Programme are to:

Assist voluntary and community organisations, national governing bodies (NGBs) of sport, local authorities and Education and Training Boards and schools to develop high quality, accessible, safe, well-designed, sustainable facilities in appropriate locations and to provide appropriate equipment to help maximise participation in sport and physical recreation.

Prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas and groups (such as people with disabilities) in the provision of sports facilities.

Encourage the sharing of local, regional and national sports facilities by clubs, community organisations and national governing bodies of sport.

Sports Capital Programme



Available Funds €40million



Application open from 11th
December 2020

Register on OSCAR before 5pm,
Monday, 15th February 2021



Closing Date 5pm on Monday, 1st
March 2021



www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie

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Any organisation wishing to make an application under the Programme must be registered on OSCaR

The organisation will need a tax registration number to register.

A guide to the registration process is available at <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/22797/f06644c4005443e9885aad54e1b185c4.pdf#page=1>.

The Department has also created a “how-to register” video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDI-L2I5JXQ&t=8s>

If you have previously registered then your organisation does not need to register again. If you are unsure if your organisation is registered a list of all registered organisations is available here <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d13385-sports-capital-programme/#onlinesystem-for-sports-capital-programme>

Application

- Applicants must note that funding is limited and that this is a competitive process. Simply meeting the minimum criteria under the headings above does not guarantee funding.

Technical matters : It **is** recommended that you do not have your application open in more than one browser window or tab at the same time.

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WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO MAKE AN APPLICATION?

Document	Compulsory
Letter from your national governing body of sport confirming regional status of project	Compulsory for all regional applications
Quotation/estimate of the cost of your project	Compulsory for all applications
Proof of own funding	Compulsory for all applications. Loan offers must be filled in on the template at appendix 1 of the guide to making an application.
Evidence of planning permission/ planning application or evidence that planning permission is not required	Optional but extra marks are awarded at assessment stage (see section in the Guide to Making an Application on planning permission for details).
Licence agreements between groups as evidence of sharing of facilities	Compulsory for all schools, Diocesan Trusts, Education and Training Boards and 3rd level college applications Optional for others but extra marks awarded for the sharing of facilities.
Evidence of ownership of site	Compulsory for all applications for capital works where the organisations have chargeable title to their land. Applicants solicitor must complete the template at appendix 5 of the guide to making an application.
Evidence of access to Site	Compulsory for all applications for capital works where the organisation does not have chargeable title to their land. In such cases the organisation can apply for a maximum of €50,000 for capital works.

- **If an organisation is applying for sports equipment the only documents required is a bank statement showing their own funding and a quotation for the equipment.**

Joint Applications – Schools, Diocesan Trusts, Education and Training Boards and 3rd level college Third level colleges, Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and schools may apply for funding but can only do so jointly with sports clubs.

If you are a sports club making a joint application you cannot make a separate application under your own name.

Sharing Facilities Clubs and organisations (other than those listed above under Joint Applications) may also gain extra points at assessment by sharing their facilities with other local clubs/groups and/ or schools



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WHAT SORT OF THING DOES THE PROGRAMME FUND?

The programme will only fund projects that are sporting in nature. To help determine if a project is sporting in nature the Council of Europe definition of sport is used:

“All forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being and at forming social relationships.”

SCEP do fund:

Examples of things that the programme funds: -

- Natural grass sports pitches, tracks and courts (including pitch drainage)
- Artificial sports pitches, tracks, courts and multi-use games areas
- LED Floodlighting
- Fitness studios
- Security fencing, CCTV systems and pitch side fencing (where these are deemed essential)
- Ball stop netting and goal posts - Hurling walls / handball alleys
- Walking/jogging tracks
- Building or refurbishment of dressing rooms, showers and toilets
- Building or refurbishment of sports halls, gyms or fitness studios
- Modifications to sports facilities to improve access for people with disabilities.
- Modifications to sports facilities to reduce energy consumption
- Non-personal sports equipment such as gym equipment, lawn mowers, other maintenance equipment and defibrillators. Note; a limit of €30,000 applies in respect of maintenance equipment. Equipment grants of over €50,000 will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances (such as to NGB's).
- Portable storage containers/sheds up to 25 m² are considered equipment but larger modular buildings that require planning permission and/or foundations are considered capital works and require proof of title (see page 5 of application form)
- Any other capital projects that are clearly sporting in nature and that will increase participation in sport or improve performance (see definition above)
- Covid-19 related works or equipment deemed essential to allow facilities to continue in use.



SCEP do fund:



Equipment that is funded

The programme considers anything that is not set into the ground as equipment. Examples of equipment funded include:

- Exercise equipment
- Weights
- Boats and trailers
- Portable goals and dugouts
- Boxing rings and punch bags
- Lawn mowers
- Storage containers (less than 25m²)
- Training aids like cones, ladders, bibs, balls

If an application includes sports equipment and capital works they will be assessed as a capital application.

SCEP do not fund:

Examples of things that the programme does not fund:

- Running or Operational costs
- Non-LED floodlighting
- Viewing stands
- Car parks, roads or landscaping
- Children's Playgrounds
- Bars, kitchens, sleeping accommodation, offices or other parts of a project that have little or no sporting content
- Projects, (or elements of projects), where work has already commenced.
- The building or renovating of swimming pools
- Routine maintenance (including the resurfacing of artificial pitches funded by the SCEP in the last 10 years)
- Applications from schools, ETBs and 3rd level colleges that are not made jointly with at least one sports club (see separate section on schools, ETB and 3rd level colleges applications on page 5 of this guide)
- Hunting
- Luxury equipment or facilities such as spa facilities or pleasure craft
- The repayment of loans (a separate tax relief scheme for donations to sports clubs can be used to fund the repayment of loans see www.revenue.ie)
- The purchase of land or buildings (a separate tax relief scheme for donations to sports clubs can be used to fund the purchase of land see www.revenue.ie)

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

The scoring system will be finalised and published prior to assessment work commencing but it is not expected to change significantly from the most recent round. Previous applications were assessed against 6 criteria:

1. Likelihood of increasing participation/improving performance

2. Sharing of facilities

3. Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area

4. Technical merits of the project

5. Level of own funding available

6. Level of SCEP funding received in the past 10 years

The scoring system which applied to the last round of the SCP can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d31d21-2018-sports-capital-programme-scoring-system-and-assessment-procedure/>

Applicants must note that funding is limited and that this is a competitive process. Simply meeting the minimum criteria under the headings above does not guarantee funding.

WHAT ARE COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY APPLICANTS?

1. Title/Access to the land where the project is being developed – title/access templates (appendix 4 and 5 of the guide) have not been provided, amended, not signed, not dated or not fully completed

2. Own Funding – loan offer or bank statements not provided, provided without the applicant's name or not dated within 3 months of the application deadline

3. Wrong documents uploaded – or the same document uploaded multiple times

4. Application not started on time – organisations that do not start their application early run the risk of encountering technical or other difficulties that cannot be resolved before the deadline.

What areas do grants not Succeed?

(Table below from 2017 Round)

Reason	Number invalid	%
Title/Access requirements of the Sports Capital Programme not satisfied	291	55%
Evidence of own funding not provided in prescribed format	110	21%
Insufficient own funding	44	8%
Other (organisation not eligible for SCP funding, project not eligible for SCP funding ie a pool)	22	4%
School/College/ETB application not made jointly with local club/community group	19	4%
Private/commercial organisation	14	3%
Insufficient quotations/estimates submitted	13	2%
Insufficient sporting content	10	2%
Routine maintenance	4	1%
Work on project already started	1	0%
Grand Total (greater than the total number of invalids as some applicants were invalid for more than one reason).	528	

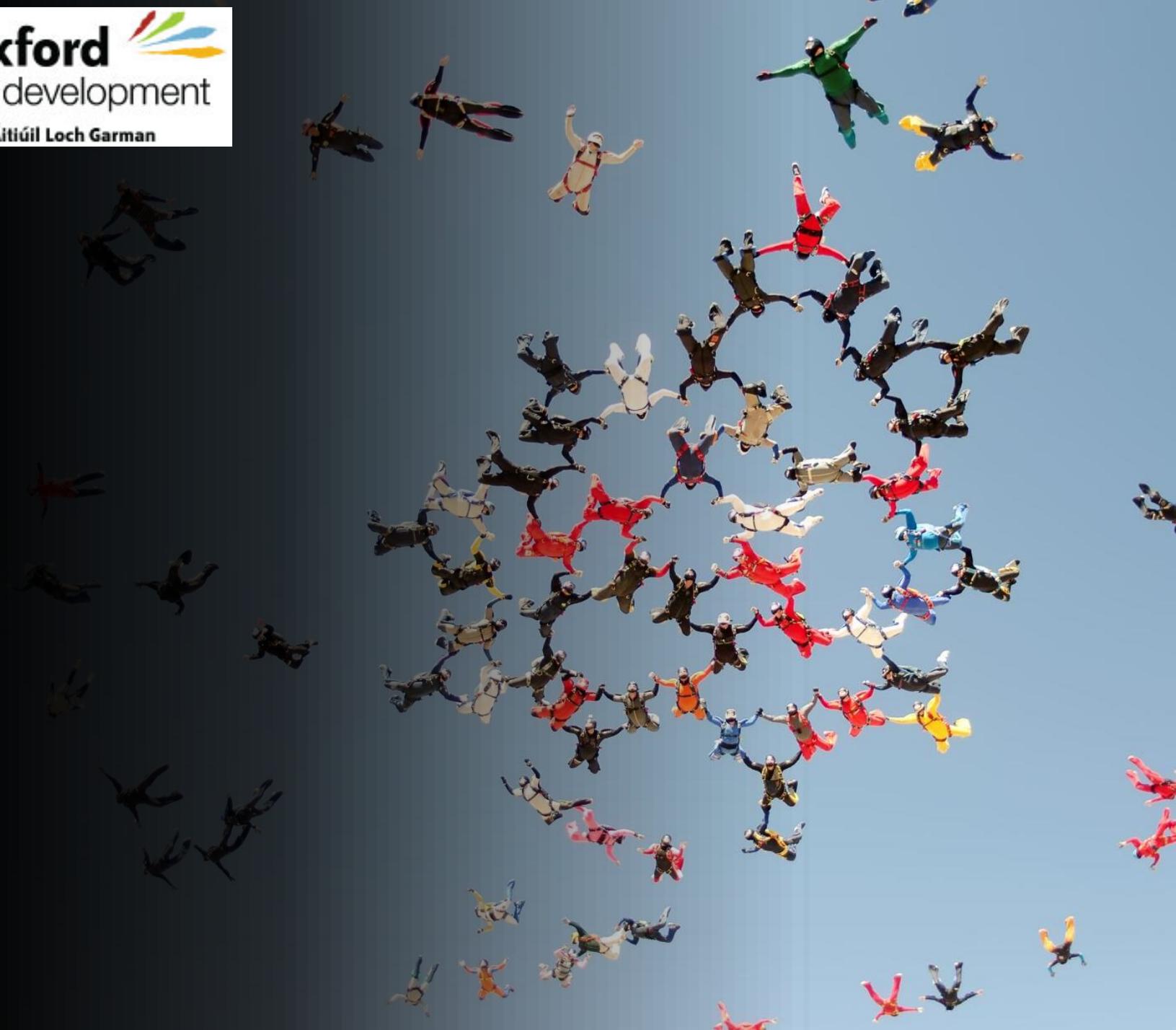
Evidence of Own funding

- You must upload evidence of your own funding in one or more of the formats below Note: No other forms of evidence of own funding such as letters from NGBs or benefactors, overdrafts, copies of clubs' accounts or future fundraising estimates are acceptable.
- At least one statement from a financial institution or from the GAA Development Fund. The statement(s) must include the name of the organisation, the details of the financial institution and the closing balance on the statement(s).
- Statements must be dated within 3 months of the application deadline. If it is a joint application or if the applicant has more than one bank account, a statement can be included for each account. • Overdrafts cannot be used as own funding.
- If the level of own funding includes a loan, your financial institution must fill in and stamp the template provided at Appendix 1. Loans from the GAA Development Fund are not acceptable.
- Local Authorities, ETBs and 3rd Level Colleges can provide a letter confirming that the required own funding is in place.



How are grants allocated

- In making allocations, the Department will aim for a good spread of funding between different areas and a wide range of sports. The assessment score is a key factor in making allocations.
- Allocation can take at least 6-9mths after application



WE DO NOT OWN OUR OWN PITCH OR BUILDING CAN WE APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Yes, you can apply for sports equipment or you can apply for up to €50,000 towards capital works but the owner/landlord must complete the template at appendix 4 of the guide to making an application.

I RUN A SPORTS BUSINESS CAN I APPLY FOR A GRANT?

No, the programme only funds organisations where all the income of the organisation is used to fund the activities of the organisation and is not paid to the owner – the Department may seek proof of not-for-profit status.



HOW MUCH OWN-FUNDING DO APPLICANTS NEED?

CAN I APPLY FOR COVID
RELATED CAPITAL WORK OR
EQUIPMENT?

Yes, organisations can
apply for Covid-19
related works or
equipment deemed
essential to allow
facilities to continue in
use.

Applicants must have at least 5% of the total project costs in either savings or a loan when they are making their applications and they must provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement or a loan offer – which must be on the template provided in the guide. For local authorities the minimum own funding is 30%.

When assessing applications, the Department gives higher marks to organisations that show they can provide a higher percentage of own funding.

MY ORGANISATION HAS AN OUTSTANDING GRANT CAN WE APPLY FOR MORE MONEY?



Yes, organisations can apply for further funding before their previous grants have been paid. Applicants can even apply for additional money towards a project if they did not receive enough funding previously BUT only if they have not started work. If contracts have been signed or works commenced you cannot apply to finish a project.

We recommend that organisations plan their work in phases and make each application for a separate phase. Phase one could be to build a sports gym and phase two could be to purchase the gym equipment.

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24

MY CLUB WISHES TO APPLY JOINTLY WITH ANOTHER CLUB – WHO SUBMITS THE APPLICATION?

The organisation that owns the land should make the application. Remember only one application per organisation is permitted so if you are making an application jointly with a local school you cannot also make your own application.

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Thresholds



Local Applicants

Max Grant €150,000 – Clubs/Groups that have evidence of ownership
Or minimum of 15 years remaining on Leasehold Max Grant €50,000
Clubs/Groups that do not own facilities but have confirmation of access from owner

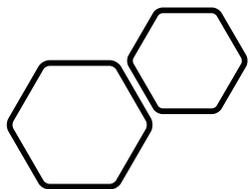
National/ Regional Facilities Max Grant €300,000

Equipment Grant Max Grant €50,000 unless NGB Max Grant €30,000
for Maintenance Equipment – eg Mower

Regional or National projects

- Regional or National projects (maximum grant of €300,000)
- If you are planning a national or regional facility, you must include a letter from your NGB confirming the regional status of the project.
- Regional or National projects may include;
 - national centres of excellence for one or more sport (e.g.: national rowing centre, national stadium for boxing)
 - 6-8 lane synthetic running tracks, • county and/or regional centres of excellence (including but not limited to: GAA county training grounds and centres of excellence, premier and first division league of Ireland clubs, FAI centres of excellence, provincial rugby grounds and training centres),
 - Local Authority projects seeking between €150,000 and €300,000
 - Sports facilities at 3rd Level Colleges (must be made jointly with a local club or sports group) and Applications from NGBs.
 - Please Note: If you are unsure about whether or not your project is national/regional, please contact the Department for advice.
 - Facilities that have received regional funding in the past will be considered regional in the future and cannot apply for local funding.





Accessibility

- Information & Support Publications available from www.universaldesign.ie
- Sports Capital Guide to Accessible Gym Equipment
<https://assets.gov.ie/22798/16dbbb4249904b46a13d31cca975717f.pdf>
- CARA – Sport Inclusion Ireland - Factsheets
<https://caracentre.ie/fact-sheets/>



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Some Additional Funding Opportunities

- Amenity Grants Scheme - Provides aid to resident groups, community groups and committees who are engaged in community amenity works in their own area. Currently open for 2021 applications <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/supports-grants-and-awards>
- Town and Village Renewal - Provides support to revitalise towns & villages in order to improve the living & working environment of the community & increase potential to support increased economic activity into the future www.drkd.gov.ie/subheader1/town-village-renewal-scheme/
- DRCD Community Enhancement Programme - Support projects that improve quality of life for residents in disadvantaged urban and rural areas providing tangible supports. The funding will relate to capital projects only and should demonstrate added value. Match-funding is not a requirement for approval. Via Wexford County Council Community Section/ LCDC
- The Wheel - One-stop shop that provide support & information to the community & voluntary sector – Fundingpoint – provides up to date information on funding opportunities - www.wheel.ie/funding
- Community Financing Ireland - Charity that provides loans exclusively to community groups, charities, sports clubs, local enterprises - Phone: 041 6858637 Email : barrysymes@communityfinanceireland.com
- Clann Credo - Provides community loan finance at affordable rates to community groups, charities, sports clubs, local enterprises – Roisin Mulligan – 086 309 8098
- They have a recorded webinar explaining how they can help you do just that! <https://t.co/1awQDNedF4?amp=1> The password is - ^2fKp*Fv





Good Luck



thank you

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We would like to acknowledge the help of colleagues in Laois County Council Sports & Leisure Section in preparing this presentation