

Call for Proposals

for

Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially

Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities

31 July 2020



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
**the dormant
accounts fund**

1. Background

The public libraries strategy 2018-2022, *Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities* is an ambitious strategy which aims to establish public libraries as modern, progressive library services which connect and support communities and individuals. Among other things, the strategy focuses on removing barriers to access and improving accessibility, with a specific focus on communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged.

“The public library service must meet the needs of a diverse range of individuals and communities, facilitating inclusion and participation by all. All users should have equal opportunity of access to public library buildings, library services and library resources. This should be delivered through a more systematic approach – in the first instance by building on good practice across the library network; secondly by ensuring existing and new services take account of the full range of user needs; and thirdly by building on existing and developing new relationships with local agencies and groups to facilitate greater engagement with hard to reach, marginalised and disadvantaged communities.”

2. Overview of Funding

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), through the Dormant Accounts Fund, is making up to **€430,000 available** to library authorities targeted at **marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities** to -

- **provide literacy supports** in tandem with the national *Right-to-Read Programme*,
- **support digital literacy**, digital access and digital capacity,
- **provide access** to educational supports including STEAM, lifelong learning, social inclusion, and community participation supports, and
- **provide supports** in tandem with the Sensory Libraries initiative.

In light of COVID-19 restrictions funding is being tailored to focus on online programming, small group engagement and provision of online literacy and digital skills licences.

The two areas of funding are –

- (i) €250,000 for programming (online or in small groups) which reaches out to marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities. (Appendix 2)
- (ii) €180,000 to purchase literacy, numeracy, digital skills licences/apps to assist adults or children with low literacy levels, those with learning difficulties or visually/hearing impaired e.g. *Lexia; Touch-Type, Read, Spell; Nessy* etc. (Appendix 3)

Proposals may include one or both of the above elements. Proposal forms are attached in appendices 2 (programming) and 3 (licences/apps). Funding should be spent in 2020.

In recognition of the financial position of Library Authorities grant aid has been increased to **90% of the total eligible** cost incurred.

In light of the timelines and restricted resources there is no minimum project value.

Collaboration on a regional/cross library authority basis is eligible and encouraged.

€250,000 for Programming

Programming can take the form of workshops, seminars or innovative projects that develop resources to address the needs of marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities. Due to the current restrictions workshops should be online or in the numbers permitted under the COVID-19 restrictions.

€180,000 for Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Skills Licences/Apps

The literacy and digital skills licences should be purchased by the Library Authority for use in the libraries but could also be available to lend to schools, Afterschool Clubs and individuals.

Library Authorities who submit a proposal for Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Skills Licences/Apps funding will be assured an initial allocation of up to €3,333 and the remaining €80,000 will be allocated pro rata based on the populations for the local authority on the 2016 census. Should

a Library Authority not wish to avail of the €3,333 this will be added to the remaining funding for reallocation to other Authorities.

3. Application Process

Please complete the Proposal Form in Appendix 2 electronically. Save it in Microsoft Word or PDF format (not scanned) and submit to lcdev@drcd.gov.ie. The closing date for receipt of proposals is **27th August 2020**. The Department will assess the applications and hope to be in a position to announce the successful projects by mid-September 2020.

Claims for payment should be submitted to the Department on or before **20 November 2020**. Any queries should be forwarded to Libraries Development and Community Policy Section at lcdev@drcd.gov.ie.

4. Promotion/branding of Dormant Accounts Funding for approved initiatives

The Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) should be acknowledged in any press release, speech, social media post, advertisement etc. The DAF logo should be used in any public notice, advertisement etc. relating to a supported project. The logo should be reasonably prominent, and at least the same size as any other logos.

Any organisation or project supported by the DAF should display a notice acknowledging that the project is supported by the DAF. The notice should state, for example, "This project is supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund".

The Department of Rural and Community Development should be acknowledged in any press release, speech, social media post, advertisement etc. The hashtag to be used on social media is **#dormantaccounts**.

The Department logo should be used in any public notice, advertisement etc. relating to a supported project. The logo should be reasonably prominent, and at least the same size as any other logos.

5. Post Project Evaluation

The successful library authorities will be required to provide an evaluation report by **3 March 2021** detailing their engagement with communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged, the outcome and impact of the initiative including case studies. Evaluation forms will issue with the funding approval letters.

Appendix 1 – Guidelines

Eligibility

- Grant aid is not intended as a substitute for core library authority funding.
- Library authority staff training is not eligible for funding.
- Purchase of stock, equipment or assets is not eligible unless it is less than 20% of the overall cost of the project.
- Costs associated with the hiring of venues to host programmes is eligible for funding in view of library branch capacity restrictions associated with COVID-19 social distancing.

Grant aid

- The grant aid requires a matching contribution from library authorities of 10% of eligible costs.
- Funding should be spent in 2020.
- Normal public procurement requirements apply.

Award of Funding

- Up to €430,000 will be made available nationally to library authorities to support programming that will focus on communities and individuals at risk of being socially excluded, marginalised or disadvantaged.
- Where the value of proposals exceeds the funding available, allocations will generally be determined according to the relative quality of library authority proposals.