



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

Budget Factsheet

Key Points

- Budget 2021 provides the Department with a funding allocation of €341 million in 2021.
- This allows €23 million for additional funding supports in 2021.
- Capital funding has increased by €15 million and current by €8 million.
- This is being used for targeted measures to support the rural economy and our communities throughout the country, in particular in the context of the Covid pandemic and also ensuring the resilience of the rural economy in the context of Brexit.

Capital Funding increases (€15 million):

- + €4 million for LEADER programme (from €40m to €44m).
- + €9 million for Rural Regeneration and Development Programme (from €78 million to €87 million):

- €5 million for investment in facilities in digital hubs and in BCP buildings to facilitate remote work and study.
- €2 million for Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme – from €10 million to €12 million.
- €2 million for the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund – from €53 million to €55 million.
- Increased capital investment in Local Improvement Scheme (+€0.5m to €10.5m); CLÁR (+€0.5m to €5.5m) and Islands (+€1m to €2.6m).

Current Funding increases (€8 million):

- A new €2 million funding stream to enable towns and villages to develop masterplans aimed at revitalising towns centres and increasing town centre living.
- +€2 million for the Community Services Programme (from €47 million to €49 million) to ensure continued support for 400 community organisations and 2000 positions in these organisations.
- +€1.6 million for additional supports for volunteering (from €3.5 million to €5.1 million) ensuring all counties have a full volunteer centre, increasing the level of volunteering and matching people to organisations.
- A new €1 million funding stream for pilot community development projects, in line with commitment in the programme for Government, and allowing a locally led, bottom up, approach to social inclusions in selected areas.
- €400,000 to costs of providing the Broadband Connection Points in 2021.

Indicative key allocations under the Rural Development Programme

Rural Programmes/Schemes	2021 allocation	Change on 2020	Comment
LEADER	€44 m	€4m increase	Fund existing demand and transition arrangement
Rural Regeneration & Development	€87m	€9m increase	
<i>of which</i>			
<i>RRDF</i>	<i>€55m</i>	<i>€2m increase</i>	<i>Additional funding for RRDF projects</i>
<i>Town and Village</i>	<i>€20m</i>	<i>€5m increase</i>	<i>Remote working facilities– digital hubs & BCPs</i>
<i>ORIS</i>	<i>€12m</i>	<i>€2m increase</i>	<i>Additional funding for ORIS projects</i>
Town and Village Master-plans	€2m	New allocation	Town centre living masterplans in 50 towns/villages
LIS	€10.5m	€0.5m increase	Increased investment
CLÁR	€5.5m	€0.5m increase	Increased investment
Broadband & Regional Development	€2.8m	€0.4m increase	Increase is for contracted payments for BCPs.
Walks Scheme	€4m	No change	-
Western Development Commission	€2m	No change	-
Islands	€11m	€2m increase	<i>€1m capital & €1m current – investment and services.</i>

Indicative Key Allocations under the Community Development Programme

Programme/Scheme	2021 allocation	Change on 2020	Comment
CSP	€48.9m	€2m increase (from €46.9m)	Ensure support for community services and individuals on the scheme
SICAP	€45m	€1m increase (from €44m)	€44m for existing supports – the additional €1m for community development projects.
Supports for C&V Sector incl. Senior Alerts & SSNOs	€14.2m	€1.6m increase	Continued delivery of Seniors Alert Scheme (€2.3m) & SSNOs (€6m). Supports for volunteering from €3.5m to €5.1m.
Dormant Accounts Fund	€12.6m	No change	Continued delivery of measures including SIFI/Rethink Ireland and Social Enterprise supports.
Libraries Development	€7.7m	No change	Additional funding for innovative digital projects, My Open Library, and small scale improvements.
PEACE	€7m	No change	Additional funding for this cross border programme – vital in the context of Brexit.
Dublin North East Inner City	€6.5m	No change	Continued support for DNEIC programme
LCDC	€2.4m	No change	Continued support for committees
PPNs	€2.4m	No change	Continued support for the networks.