

Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Overview

This Scheme is funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme. The key aim of this Programme is to assist in tackling poverty and social isolation within rural communities across Northern Ireland. More information on the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework is provided at Annex 3.

For the Mid Ulster District Council area, CWSAN and COSTA are delivering this Scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Key objectives

The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020 has been designed to:

- Help rural community-led, voluntary groups to address local issues of **access poverty**, **financial poverty** and **social isolation**; and
- Improve the lives of rural communities, and in particular the wellbeing of isolated individuals.

CWSAN: The Crieve Centre, 2 Hillhead, Stewartstown, BT71 5HY

Tel: 028 877 38845 email: microgrants@cwsan.org

or

COSTA: President Grant's Homestead, 45 Dergenagh Road, Dungannon, BT70 1TW

Tel: 028 855 56880 or Info.costa@btconnect.com

The Grant Scheme

Micro Capital grants between £200 and £1,500 are available to rural community-led, voluntary organisations for projects tackling issues of local poverty and / or social isolation. Projects must focus on one of the following three themes:

- Modernisation (of building(s) / assets)
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Health and Wellbeing

The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme can offer grant aid from 50% up to 85% of the total eligible cost of your project. **NB:** The total project cost must not exceed £3,000. Match funding for your contribution of at least 15% must be in the form of a 'cash' contribution. Labour or 'in-kind' contributions will not be accepted.

In order to ensure that as many groups as possible get the opportunity to benefit from this Scheme, organisations can only make **one** application to the Scheme. In the event of the call for applications being over-subscribed, preference will be given to applicants who did not previously receive funding from past Rural Micro Capital Grant Schemes.

What can be funded?

Grant aid can only be used to meet costs associated with capital equipment, the improvement of a capital asset and / or the extension of the useable life of a capital asset. Eligible items **must** clearly relate to the key themes of (i) Modernisation*, (ii) ICT or (iii) Health & Wellbeing.

In recognizing the impact of Covid 19, and the need for investment to reopen and safely operate venues, eligible costs may include structural alterations, e.g. ventilation systems for rooms without windows; heating rooms previously unused to provide more space; removing walls to improve space and improve distancing.

Furthermore, goods which have a degree of permanence (anticipated to have a life beyond 1 year) or can be permanently affixed to the venue can also be considered eligible. This would allow items including sanitiser stations, perspex screens, signage, floor markings, refillable spray bottles, automatic doors, replacement furniture that can be wiped down and contactless thermometers.

As this is a capital programme, the following types of activity **cannot** be funded.

Examples of Ineligible Activities	
General maintenance	Running costs & Consumables (e.g. ink cartridges, paper) sanitiser
Training	Staff / Volunteer expenses
Clothing, Uniforms, including PPE (gowns, masks, gloves, sanitizer gels / liquids etc.)	Hospitality, Food, Drink
Motorised vehicles	Feasibility Studies / Reports

Labour costs not directly associated with purchased Capital works / items

This list is not exhaustive, if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your project please contact CWSAN or COSTA before applying.

***Your organisation must ensure that all actions undertaken in relation to this project comply with the relevant statutory requirements and legislation in existence during the lifetime of the project. Projects involving work to modernise a building will only be accepted from either the owner or leasee. Only one application can be accepted per building.**

Who can apply?

You **can** apply for a Micro Capital grant if:

- ✓ you are a not-for-profit community / voluntary organisation;
- ✓ the organisation is based in a rural area. A definition of rural is detailed at Annex 1;
- ✓ you have a formal signed Constitution or governing documents;
- ✓ you have a minimum of three people on your management committee (this must be clearly detailed within your constitution or governing documents);
- ✓ you have a bank or building society account in the name of your group, which requires at least two signatures for each withdrawal (this must be clearly detailed within your constitution or governing documents);
- ✓ you can enclose copy of your most recent signed Accounts or a signed Financial Statement. The Financial Statement must be signed by a person in authority within your organisation, i.e. Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer;
- ✓ you need a capital grant between £200 and £1,500 for a specific poverty or social isolation project
- ✓ You are the sole applicant and owner OR leasee of the building for which the application to RMCGS 2020 is being made.
- ✓ you can provide two quotes (net after taking into account recoverable VAT) for each item to be purchased which are **dated prior to close of call and contain the supplier's name**. Email quotes are acceptable and should include any covering email. Delivery costs can be included as an additional cost
- ✓ your organisation can deliver the project, pay the supplier(s) and submit a grant claim **by 31 March 2021** (including reimbursement of credit cards / loans);
- ✓ you are appropriately insured or prepared to obtain appropriate insurance if awarded a grant (building or contents insurance as appropriate).

What cannot be funded?

We **cannot** fund the following:

- × Organisations based in urban areas;
- × Individuals, Sole traders and / or Commercial trading companies;
- × Companies that exist to distribute a profit;
- × Statutory Authorities or organisations governed by Statutory Authorities;
- × Appeals or charities set up to support statutory bodies;
- × Organisations with an income in excess of £80,000 (not including in-year restricted funds, e.g. non-business / grant income);
- × More than one application to modernise a building.

- × Costs already incurred – an application cannot be made for capital items that have already been ordered or received before the award of a Letter of Offer;
- × Grant cannot be used to match another funder's project;
- × Projects where the value of match funding is greater than the value of grant; and
- × Second-hand equipment.

Eligibility

Your application will be considered against the Eligibility Criteria for the Scheme (Please carefully consider the criteria listed at Annex 2, this will be used to determine if your application is eligible). Only the information contained within your application will be used during this process and no additional information other than that provided with your application will be considered.

As this Scheme is funded as part of DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme, you must also demonstrate within your application how your project will contribute to reducing rural poverty and / or social isolation within your local community. Annex 3 refers.

Please note

1. We intend to inform applicants if their application is considered 'ineligible' within six weeks of the closing date.

2. If your application is eligible, we will contact you with details of the Letter of Offer Workshops* in your region. You **must not start** your project until you have attended the Letter of Offer Workshop and/or contacted your local RSN to agree to the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer.

*If your organisation's chosen representative attended a Letter of Offer Workshop in 2019, it is not compulsory for that individual to attend the Workshop for 2020. However, if that office-bearer has changed in the interim, then a new representative will need to attend.

3. Your project must be completed and your claim for grant submitted **by 31 March 2021**. **No extensions** will be given.
4. You must incur the initial cost of your purchases and then claim your grant once your project is completed. Your organisation must have paid for all project expenditure **and submitted a claim for payment by 12 noon on 31 March 2021**. **No advance payments** will be provided.
5. **DAERA need to be made aware immediately of any Conflict of Interest**, however arising, that may occur between your organisation and any other organisation, supplier, person or employee associated in any way with the delivery of the Project.
6. Following completion, your project may be selected by DAERA for a verification check to ensure your grant aid is being used for the purposes intended.
7. **The number of people you estimate your project will contribute to improving the lives of (beneficiaries)**. How beneficiaries are estimated and recorded should be determined by your organisation and be as accurate as possible. **Estimating and providing a large number of beneficiaries at application stage will not assist your organisation in gaining grant aid. The application should instead identify the likely benefits to the rural population of the completed project by recording the expected number of people with access to or using the new or improved facilities/equipment.**

How to apply

This Scheme is open for applications from **Monday 7 September 2020** until **12 noon** on **Friday 2nd October 2020**.

Download the Application Form and Guidance Notes from CWSAN: www.cwsan.org or COSTA: www.costaruralsupportnetwork.org or request an Application Pack by calling or emailing: CWSAN: Tel: 028 877 38845, email: microgrants@cwsan.org or COSTA: Tel: 028 855 56880, email: info.costa@btconnect.com

Please return your completed application form, with electronic attachments (e.g. scanned copies of signed constitution, signed accounts or signed financial statement, quotes etc.) by email to: CWSAN/COSTA: microgrants@cwsan.org

The following documents **must** be included with your application:

- A copy of your group's signed Constitution / governing documents. These documents should clearly detail the number of members on the Management Committee and the group's financial procedures.
- A copy of your group's most recent Bank / Building Society statement
- A copy of your most recent signed Accounts or a signed Financial Statement, signed by a person in authority within your organisation, i.e. Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer (for minimum 12

month period*) that clearly shows annual income. *Newly formed organisations should provide a signed financial statement covering the period from establishment to date.

- A copy of two like-for-like, quotations from at least 2 different suppliers for item(s) that you wish to purchase. Procurement requirements are outlined at Annex 1 of these guidance notes.
- A copy of your lease or proof of ownership (for a project involving work to your building)

Please refer to Annex 1 and 2 for further information.

The onus to ensure that your application is received before the closing date rests solely with each applicant. Therefore please ensure that you leave sufficient time to submit your application by the closing date.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS BE ACCEPTED.

If you would like more information about the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020 or have a specific query, please contact:

CWSAN:

The Crieve Centre, 2 Hillhead, Stewartstown, BT71 5HY

Tel: 028 877 38845 email: microgrants@cwsan.org

or

COSTA:

President Grant's Homestead, 45 Dergenagh Road, Dungannon, BT70 1TW

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The Department takes data protection, freedom of information and environmental information issues seriously. It takes care to ensure that any personal information received from you is dealt with in a way which complies with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (2016). This means that any personal information you supply will be processed principally for the purpose for which it has been provided. However, the Department is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for this purpose.

A full copy of the DAERA Privacy Statement can be found here:- <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daera-privacy-statement>

**The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme is funded by the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs as part of its
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme.**

Annex 1**Rural Location**

Applications will only be accepted for projects that are based in a rural area of Northern Ireland.

For the purposes of the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020, rural Northern Ireland means all those areas outside the statutory development limits of those towns with a population in excess of 5,000 inhabitants plus the areas of Strathfoyle, Newbuildings, and Culmore in Derry/Londonderry Urban Area (OUA) and Milltown, Helens Bay, Crawfordsburn, and Groomsport in the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA).

If you are in any doubt about whether your group is located in a rural area, please contact

CWSAN: Tel: 028 877 38845 email: microgrants@cwsan.org

Procurement

Estimated values	Action & Minimum Number	Comments
<p>Up to £3,000 (maximum total project cost under RMC GS 2020)</p>	<p>At least 2 price-checks / quotations from <u>different</u> suppliers</p> <p>Email quotes should include any covering email.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quotes should be 'like-for-like'; like for like refers to the specification relating to the item. E.g. For a laptop, the specification should be written using specific detail of the product features (15inch screen, storage, memory, etc.). ▪ Quotes can include delivery costs as an additional cost. ▪ Quotes must be dated prior to close of call and contain the supplier's name. ▪ The lowest quotation should be selected with corresponding costs detailed on the application form. DAERA will reimburse at the cost of the lowest quotation

Annex 2

NB: This document details the criteria that will be used to confirm if your application is eligible.

	<i>ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</i>	Yes (√) No (X)	<i>COMMENT</i>
1.	Applicant is based in a rural area. (Q1.1)		
2.	Applicant organisation is not-for-profit community / voluntary. (Q1.9)		
3.	The project addresses an issue of local poverty and / or social isolation, in line with the key objectives of the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020? (Q 2.3)		
4.	The project has not commenced. (Q2.6)		
5.	At least two quotes, dated prior to the close of the call and containing the suppliers name have been provided for each item to be purchased. (Q3.1 & Annex A)		
6.	Grant requested is between £200 and £1,500 (Q3.2)		
7.	Applicant is providing minimum 15% match funding (Q3.2)		
8.	The project can be completed and grant claimed by 31 March 2021? (Q3.3)		
9.	Applicant has provided copy of their signed Constitution / Governing documents which confirms the Management Committee has a minimum of three people and at least two signatories are required for cheques / withdrawals.		
10.	Applicant has provided copy most recent Bank / Building Society statement bearing the applicant organisation's name.		
11.	Applicant has provided their most recent signed Accounts or signed financial statement.		
12.	For projects involving work to modernise a building, proof of ownership or a lease have been provided.		
13.	Applicant has an annual income less than £80,000 (not including in-year restricted funds, e.g. non-business / grant income)		

**** APPLICANT MUST MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO PROCEED TO SELECTION ****

Please remember – you must supply all relevant documentation with your application e.g. copy of most recent Bank or Building Society Statement, quotes, copy of your lease / proof of ownership for projects involving work to your building. Email quotes should include any covering email.

Failure to supply these documents will result in your application being deemed ineligible.

Closing Date for receipt of completed application forms is:

12 noon on Friday 2nd October 2020

No LATE or INCOMPLETE applications will be accepted.

As the Application Process is so different this year we strongly recommend all applicants attend an online Workshop –

**DAERA Rural Micro Grant Scheme 2020
CWSAN & COSTA Pre-Application Workshops**

Click on the relevant Zoom link below to join a Workshop:

Tuesday 8th Sept 2020 11:00am via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7379331902>

Wednesday 9th Sept 2020 7:30pm via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7379331902>

Wednesday 16th Sept 2020 7:30pm via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7379331902>

Wednesday 23rd Sept 2020 11:00am via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7379331902>

CWSAN & COSTA will provide application assistance via phone calls or on-line via Zoom during the week Monday 21st – Friday 25th September 2020.

Contact us to arrange:

CWSAN: Tel: 028 8773 8845 e-mail: microgrants@cwsan.org
or

COSTA: Tel: 028 8555 6880 e-mail: info.costa@btconnect.com

Annex 3

Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework

The Framework focuses on three Priority Areas for Intervention, namely Access Poverty, Financial Poverty and Social Isolation, and aims to support measures designed to address these priorities in rural areas. It is recognised that there is potential for significant overlap between the three priority areas and that individual measures may address more than one priority area.

- **Access Poverty** - this priority aims to improve access to key services for vulnerable rural dwellers by supporting interventions which;
 - Improve urban-rural linkages (e.g. through the provision of better transport and broadband services etc.);
 - Improve access to key services (e.g. healthcare, education and training, leisure facilities, library services, advice services, childcare etc.).
- **Financial Poverty** – this priority aims to address financial poverty among vulnerable rural dwellers by supporting interventions which:
 - reduce household expenditure or other living costs (e.g. transport costs);
 - increase household incomes; (e.g. through improved employability, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, increased benefit uptake etc.);
 - address issues relating to the additional costs faced by people living in rural areas (e.g. fuel costs);
 - address the barriers to escaping financial poverty (e.g. low qualifications, low skills, lack of access to affordable childcare, lack of access to quality jobs, disengagement, lack of access to information and advice, poor health etc.);
 - help alleviate the effects of financial poverty (e.g. food poverty, health problems, obesity among children, debt etc.).
- **Social Isolation** – this priority aims to address social isolation among vulnerable rural dwellers by supporting interventions which:
 - promote positive mental health and wellbeing;
 - increase opportunities for social engagement (e.g. social activities, sport and leisure activities, cultural activities etc.);
 - provide support to groups at risk of social isolation (e.g. farmers, older people, people with disabilities, disengaged youth, etc.).