

<p style="text-align: center;">National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) 2006-2010 Guide to Expression of Interest forms</p>

The following guide is to help you complete an Expression of Interest form for a capital grant under the National Childcare Investment Programme. If you have any further queries regarding the form, you should contact your City/County Childcare Committee (CCC).

1. What happens after I complete this form?

When you have completed the Expression of Interest form, you should forward it to your local CCC. You will be contacted in due course by the CCC, who will help you develop your Project Proposal in a way that is consistent with the Programme and the local needs that have been identified in your area and county, and guide you to ensure that your proposal represents value for money.

When this stage has been completed, your Project Proposal will be submitted by the CCC to Pobal who manage the day-to-day operations of the Programme for the Office of the Minister for Children (OMC). Your proposal will be reviewed by Pobal and submitted to the OMC for decision.

Following the decision, which is notified to you by the OMC, Pobal will deal with the following aspects of delivery of your grant in liaison with the CCC:

- Implementation plan to achieve the project within budget and in line with Programme criteria
- Offer of contract
- Financial transfer
- Monitoring of performance and expenditure
- Training and support

If you are unsatisfied with the OMC decision, you may apply to the OMC for a review within one calendar month of the decision letter.

2. I live in one county but the facility will be based in another. Which is my CCC for the purposes of this application?

All your dealings should be with the CCC with responsibility for the City/County in which your facility will be located. This is irrespective of where you live or currently work.

3. What is a DED?

Your CCC will complete this part of the form. A DED is an electoral district and provides a useful mechanism for identifying and collating data at local level.

4. When it comes to the number of places provided, what is meant by Sessional, Part-Time, and Full-Time places?

- Sessional: You should count a place as sessional if it is available for 3.5 hours per day or less.
- Part-time: You should count a place as part-time if it is available continuously for between 3.5 hours and 5 hours per day
- Full-time: You should count a place as full-time if it is available continuously for more than 5 hours per day.

5. What is meant by “Pre-school (3-4 yr old) education”?

A service for Pre-School children in the age range of 3-4 years is one that has a focus on early childhood care and education and which assists children with transition to formal schooling.

6. Will I need to notify my service to the HSE?

Under the Pre-school regulations, all childcare facilities – other than those exclusively operating as School Age Childcare (i.e. before and after school hours for school going children) – are required to notify to the HSE, as are home based Childminders who mind more than 3 children from different families.

7. What is the maximum grant for a childcare facility that I can apply for under the Programme, as a private sector childcare provider?

Private sector applicants may apply for grant assistance of up to €100,000 towards the capital cost of developing a childcare facility, in a catchment area where there is a demonstrated childcare need. An applicant may apply for more than one grant, provided the subsequent childcare facilities are in different catchment areas and subject to an overall ceiling of €500,000. In each case, an applicant must provide at least 25% of total funding required for the project.

8. I have previously received a grant under Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme as a private sector provider of €50,000. What is the maximum amount of grant aid I can receive under the National Childcare Investment Programme?

Grant aid already received and accounted for correctly under earlier childcare programmes will not affect your ability to apply for funding under the National Childcare Investment Programme. Grant approval will be subject to your project meeting Programme criteria.