

Parent & Toddler Group Initiative Grants 2024



Guidelines for Parent & Toddler Groups

Information on grants available:

Applications for funding under this scheme should only be made by P&T Groups that are organised on a not-for-profit basis and involve the participation of parents/guardians to include recently arrived parents and children from Ukraine and other countries in the community. Grants will normally range from **€100 to a total maximum of €1,300**. New start up groups may apply for a grant of up to €1, 000; existing P&T Groups can apply for up to €800.

There is also a maximum of €300 available to operate/establish Buggy Walking Groups¹. Groups are advised to contact their local CCC for further information in respect to this additional funding option (as the maximum allowable funding is €1,300, new groups who are applying for €1,000 are eligible to apply for this additional amount).

Funding will be available for:

- Toys, equipment and books for indoor and outdoor activities, including children's refreshments.
- Storage for equipment.
- Training for parents, e.g. paediatric first aid, committee skills, parenting courses, facilitated sessions,
- Promotional Leaflets including any required translations.
- Children's activities, e.g. arts and crafts, music.
- Limited funding will be available towards insurance or rent, up to a maximum of **50%** of total funding for existing services.

¹ . Buggy Walking Groups are organised social walks for parents, guardians, and their babies and toddlers. They provide a range of benefits including social interaction, physical activity and emotional, peer support. Buggy Walk Groups aim to give support to parents and guardians and their young children, allowing them to chat to each other, get exercise and fresh air and make friends in their local community. Groups are expected to be inclusive of all newcomers, where possible, but some groups may for example only be able to concentrate on new and expectant mums and recently arrived parents and children from Ukraine and other countries.

- Limited funding will be available towards insurance or rent, up to a maximum of **70%** of total funding for new services.
- An amount of up to €300 is available for the establishment of buggy walking groups. It is envisaged that these groups, once established, will involve groups of parents/guardians and children meeting for organised walks on a regular basis (a minimum of 6 walking sessions) in their local community.

Funding will not be available for:

- Groups operating out of private homes.
- One off events such as outings, parties and trips.
- P&T Groups with a closing balance of €3,000 or more in the previous year (except where a P&T Group can provide a signed declaration that the funding available to the P&T group is under €3,000).
- Groups who received funding in previous years and did not return the Progress Report and receipts for items purchased.

Additional Information:

- P&T Groups should have a Bank Account/Credit Union or Post Office Account. The money taken at each session, any grants received by the group or money received from fundraising should be paid into the account. Spending on the group's behalf should be paid for by cheque/draft or electronic means. All transactions involving the group's money should be recorded and all receipts kept.
- Applications from P&T Groups will only be accepted from groups known to their local CCC. New groups should arrange to meet a CCC staff representative prior to application deadline.
- Existing P&T Groups must submit evidence of appropriate insurance with their application. New P&T Groups should submit evidence of insurance within the first month of receiving the grant.

HSE / HPSC Advice to Parent and Toddler Groups

P&T Groups must familiarise themselves with the latest public health advice.

How to Apply:

- Please detach and fill in the attached application form, using clear block writing.
- **Please ensure that all sections are completed (Application form, Annual Income & Expenditure Account, Progress Report).**
- Simple financial records are important for groups in receipt of grants as they offer protection for all involved. However, newly formed groups do not need to provide a financial record until they are in existence for one year.
- Please ensure the application is signed by 2 committee members.
- Applicants are required to submit up to date bank statements/credit union or post office statement (reflecting the groups closing balance as at 31st December 2023) with their application form.

- Forward evidence of insurance with application for existing P & T Groups. For newly formed groups, if insurance is not available, evidence must be submitted within one month of the application being completed.
- Forward evidence of receipts for items purchased with last grant, along with progress report.
- Grant applications will not be recommended if they do not include adequate information, i.e. all sections of the application form must be completed.

Post Approval Information:

- Successful applicants are required to submit receipts as evidence of expenditure and comply with any funding conditions as set out in the Grant Agreement letter.
- If a P&T Group wishes to change their approved expenditure, they must apply in writing to Louth CCC prior to purchasing new item. Louth CCCs' decision will be confirmed in writing.
- Successful applicants may receive a support visit from their local CCC.

Louth CCC is available to support anyone wishing to set up a P&T Group or those currently running one. We can provide information that promotes the provision of a quality service that runs smoothly and conveniently for all the children and parents attending. We can assist you in choosing toys and activities that are developmentally appropriate; encourage adult child interactions or we may be able to put you in contact with relevant agencies or organisations.

Important dates:

- Application forms to be returned by: 19th April 2024.
- Notification of decisions and payment of grants will be made by 21st June 2024.

If required, this form may be photocopied. Send it to:

**Grants for Parent & Toddler Groups,
Louth County Childcare Committee,
Phone:042-9336364 Email: clerical@louthchildcare.ie**

Website: www.louthchildcare.ie

REMEMBER

The closing date is 19 / 04 / 2024

Please Note:

- If you are not the contact person for this P&T Group can you please forward this application to the correct contact person and inform Louth County Childcare on 042-9336364 ASAP.
- The contact name and mobile phone number, meeting place, days and times contained in this completed application form will be shared by Louth CCC with parents looking to join a P&T Group in your area. So please ensure these details are correct.