



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais

Galway County Council CLÁR Programme

Funding for Community Recreation Amenities in
CLÁR Areas



*Leabhrán Eolais
Information Guide*

Nótaí



Tá CLÁR dírithe ar mhaoiniú do thionscadail bhonneagair i gceantair thuaithe a bhfuil bánú daonra iontu. Ní mór go mbeadh tionscadail lonnaithe i limistéar CLÁR agus go mbeadh tograí bunaithe ar thosaíochtaí a aithnítear go háitiúil.

CLÁR is targeted funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas experiencing depopulation. Projects must be in a CLÁR area and based on locally identified priorities.



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Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future

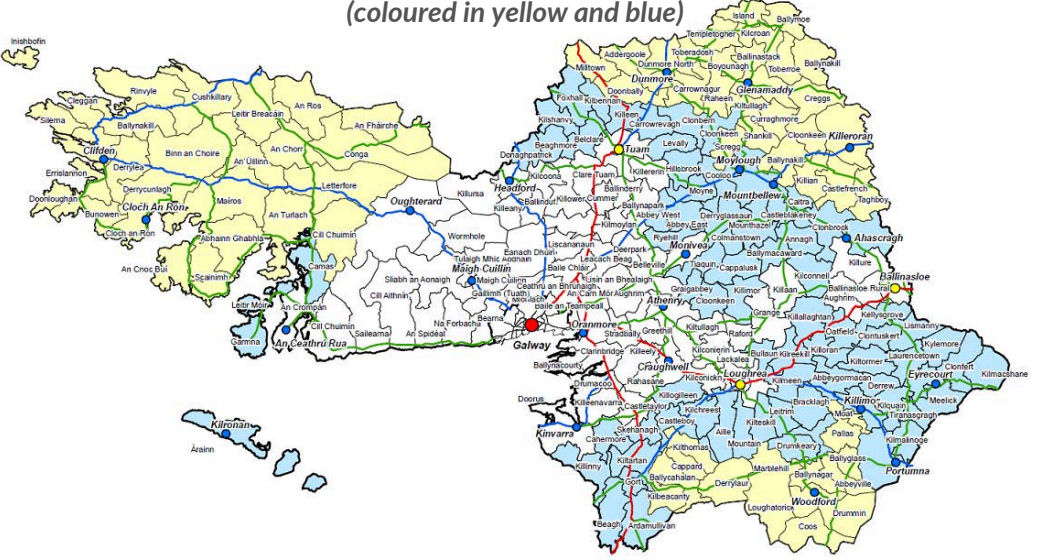


An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

What does CLÁR fund?

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a funding scheme for small scale infrastructural projects in CLÁR areas - certain rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline.

*CLÁR areas in County Galway
(coloured in yellow and blue)*



Funding aims to support projects which develop new, accessible Community Recreation Facilities, or contribute to the enhancement of existing ones, such as:

- **Small scale renovation of community, sports and youth centres, clubhouses, mens sheds**
- **Multi-Use Gaming Areas and Astro-Turf facilities**
- **Playgrounds, skate parks, tracks for cycling, walking and athletics**
- **Outdoor bowling areas, toilet facilities and car parking**
- **Tennis, basketball, handball, cricket facilities**
- **Community gyms and cinemas**
- **Sensory gardens, community gardens and allotments**
- **Access to heritage and natural beauty sites**
- **Improved access at sports grounds**
- **Solar bins and biodiversity planting**



How much funding is available?

Up to fifteen applications may be shortlisted annually for the CLÁR programme, for a **maximum of €50,000** per project at a rate of 90% funding (10% match funding).

Who can apply?

Applications are eligible from **community or voluntary organisations** or **local development companies**.

Community groups can include local sporting organisations and school boards where the infrastructure being supported is **for the benefit of the community generally** (not just the sporting organisation or schools) and is made **freely available to all members of the community**. All facilities funded must be available to the public without a requirement to be a member of a club or enrolled in a school, and facilities on school grounds must be open to the public outside school hours.

What are the conditions?

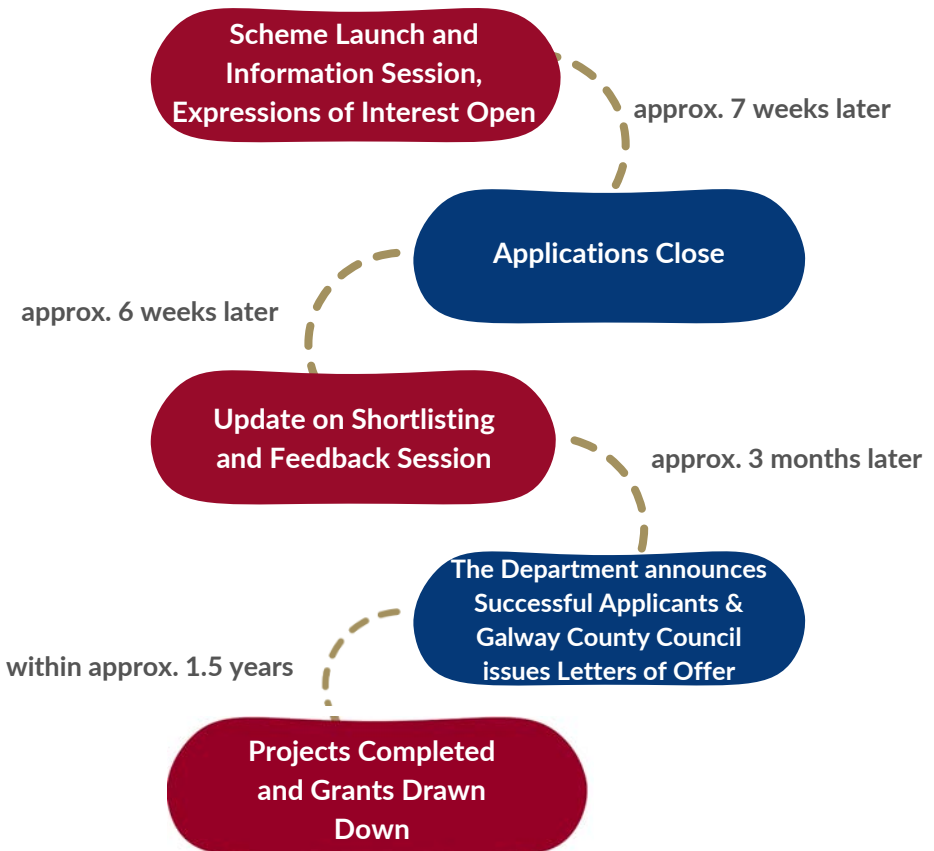
- Landowner consent and planning permission (if applicable) must be confirmed and in place at the time of application;
- Applications must be shovel ready and all other assessments/feasibility studies in place prior to submission, if required;
- The applicant must own or have a valid 15-year lease for the property;
- Evidence that match funding or loan proposal is in place at time of application;
- Evidence that the funded project will be open to the public without appointment, and that necessary insurance is in place;
- Applications may include a number of different elements in respect of a single facility (not multiple locations) up to the maximum funding limit of €50,000.

What is the assessment criteria?

The Department of Rural and Community Development will consider a number of factors when assessing applications, including alignment with government priorities such as “Our Rural Future” policy, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Climate Action Plan. In terms of each project, various elements will be evaluated:

- range, mix, quality and impact of the project;
- previous funding provided;
- meeting the scheme objectives and requirements;
- demonstration of need;
- value for money;
- quality and achievability.

What is the application process?





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Sample Projects

Skehana Community Development Playground Group was awarded €49,513 by Galway County Council under the CLÁR 2021 Programme to help develop a safe, inclusive and enjoyable playground for the community.



Galway County Council awarded €50,000 to help upgrade the access at **Clonberne Community Sports and Leisure Centre** as part of the CLÁR 2022 Programme.



This improved aesthetics, accessibility, traffic flow, and safety for walkers and people entering the sports grounds.

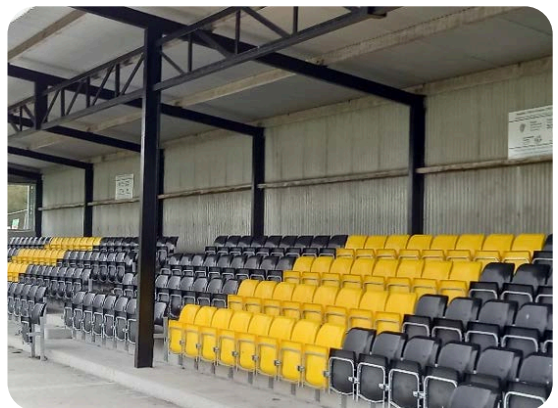
Cleggan Claddaghduff Community Council was awarded €36,491.88 by Galway County Council under the CLÁR 2023 Programme to help upgrade the ballcourt on **Cleggan Community Centre** grounds.



Dilapidated fencing was replaced and a safe, secure Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was built, resulting in renewed interest from after school clubs and sports groups within the community.



Killimor GAA was awarded €45,000 by Galway County Council under the CLÁR 2023 Programme to help upgrade the spectator stand, installing seating suitable for all patrons, aiming to accommodate the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with young children.



What should be kept in mind when applying?

- **Accessibility** is a requirement under CLÁR. Applications will score more highly if the community amenity, in so far as practicable, is illustrated to be accessible to all abilities and ages without additional requirements.
- **Management and Sustainability** are key: applications will score higher when there is a clear management structure detailing how the amenity will be managed, opened, and used sustainably.
- **Evidence of ownership/minimum 15-year lease, and planning** permissions/exemptions must be included.
- **Describe the need for the amenity**, users, potential users, and any relevant consultations or research that identified the need in your proposal.



What else should applicants be aware of?

- The timelines set by the Department from launch of the programme to application deadline can be short, so prepare, review and adjust when the programme is announced.
- Up to fifteen applications may be shortlisted annually for the CLÁR programme, for a maximum of €50,000 per project at a rate of 90% funding (10% match funding).
- Final project selection is made by the Department on the basis of proposals shortlisted by Galway County Council.
- The delivery timeline for CLÁR is typically 12-18 months.
- The Council must balance funding with local needs, meaning not all applications are shortlisted.

● **Environmental Assessment**

● **Matching Funding and Cost Estimates**

● **Governance**

● **Legal Structure and Leaseholds/Ownership**

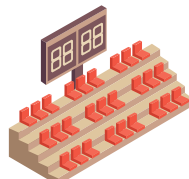
● **Insurance**

● **Planning Permission/Exemption**

● **Community Use**

● **PPN Newsletter and Learning from Other Projects**

Start with the 'end in mind' and work out what steps you need to take to achieve your goal.



Nótaí





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Please be aware that all Applications and Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be submitted online, not in paper copy, on Galway County Council's **Submit.com** platform.



The CLÁR webpage is updated with specific terms and conditions and deadlines when the programme is announced annually. This information is shared on the County Council social media and shared via the Galway County Public Participation Network (PPN).

www.galway.ie/en/services/communityenterpriseeconomicdevelopment/grantschemes



Expression of Interest (EOI) forms for the next phase of CLÁR will go live prior to Scheme Launch on our Submit platform, which is the same platform used for Application Submissions:

www.galwaycoco.submit.com



The Rural Development Unit at Galway County Council can be contacted for general queries or to set up a time to discuss your proposal at the following email address:

clar@galwaycoco.ie

Eímear Dolan - Administrative Officer
Majella Moylan - Senior Staff Officer
Carmel Egan - Assistant Staff Officer



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