



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Live Music Performances in Residential Healthcare Settings Scheme

Background

The Creative Ireland Programme introduced the *Creativity in Older Age* scheme in 2020 in response to the COVID 19 pandemic to support specific creative initiatives to support positive ageing and wellbeing programmes for older people, taking account of public health guidance in the community and for healthcare facilities.

Participation in creativity, whether active or passive, has been demonstrated to play an important role in promoting positive health and wellbeing because it creates a space for social connection, enhancing self-esteem and resilience. It helps people to de-stress and relax, and supports people to manage their health and wellbeing and enable recovery.

Research by The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin, which was commissioned by the Creative Ireland Programme¹, and by the Institute of Public Health (IPH) examined the implications for health and wellbeing of arts and creativity in later life. Both reports found a positive association between creative engagement and health and wellbeing. The TILDA report found that older adults who participate in creative activities enjoyed a higher quality of life and were less likely to be lonely, depressed and stressed than their contemporaries who did not, while the IPH report found that participation in group arts and creativity interventions helps to support the physical, mental, and social aspects of ageing.

¹ https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/app/uploads/2021/11/2021_ResearchBrief_CreativeActivity-1.pdf

Scheme Objectives

Through live music performances in residential healthcare settings the objectives of the scheme are:

- supporting positive ageing,
- engaging with issues surrounding social isolation,
- providing creative engagement opportunities for older people in residential healthcare facilities.

As an acknowledgement of the continued tremendous work undertaken through local authorities collaborating with live music performers and residential healthcare settings during the pandemic, the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Minister for Health have agreed to continue to co-fund successful proposals for live music in residential healthcare facilities. This will be facilitated through the all-of-government programmes in Creative Ireland and Healthy Ireland.

Funding

Live Music Performance in Residential Healthcare Settings is co-funded by Creative Ireland and the Department of Health. The funding available for this scheme in 2024 is €200,000.

General Requirements

1. Local authority Culture and Creativity Teams are invited to submit a single cohesive proposal under the Live Music Performance in Residential Healthcare Settings Scheme 2024.
2. Successful initiatives must be completed no later than November 2024.
3. Proposals from the Culture and Creativity Team must:
 - (i) demonstrate creative quality, with significant and sustained reach amongst the older community - the scheme is not focusing support toward once off events;
 - (ii) provide for final reporting ;
 - (iii) clearly indicate that local authority colleagues working to support the Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland Programmes are jointly involved in their submission;

- (iv) include a letter of support from the relevant healthcare facility managers or relevant CHO HSE manager where engagement with those living in residential healthcare settings is anticipated; and
- (v) be sustainable in light of the evolving nature of any such public health advice and the vulnerability of members of our older community - successful initiatives must be delivered in full compliance with any relevant prevailing public health advice.
- (vi) Proposals must be of a demonstrably high quality of live music performance.
- (vii) The proposal must make some provision for a prior consultation to understand local creative needs.
- (viii) Proposals should provide for a minimum of 2 visits to each facility involved. It is anticipated that funding of up to €15,000 can be available for individual local authority proposals, with the maximum available only where there is evidence that the scale is appropriate.

Only 1 submission should be made by each local authority. However, up to three local authorities can collaborate on a proposal and pool available funding in order to realise any available scales of economy, e.g., a collaborative proposal from two local authorities for up to €30,000 or three local authorities for up to €45,000 may be submitted. In such proposals, the economy of scale must be clearly set out. The Creative Ireland Programme and the Dept.of Health will conduct an evaluation of the projects on completion, and your cooperation with this process will be required.

Important Dates

22nd January — Fund Opens for Applications

Submit.com application form is available [here](#)

12 February — Online Briefing Session

An online webinar which will provide an overview of the fund and a Q&A session.

19th February — Closing date. Proposals should be submitted through submit.com by this date.

November 2024 — Deadline to draw down funds.

The timeframe for the projects to run are April 2024 to November 2024.

All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed by 29th February 2024. If you have any queries the funding scheme or the application process, please email creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie using the subject heading “Live Music Performance Funding Scheme 2024”

Application and Evaluation Process

1. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Monday 19th February 2024** (close of business).
2. **Applications must be submitted through [submit.com](#) [here](#) and should clearly describe:**
 - (i) the creative programme of engagement, delivery schedule and expected outcomes;
 - (ii) how the objectives of the Live Music Scheme 2024 will be met;
 - (iii) experience and expertise of programme partners and management; and
 - (iv) costs, including costs funded elsewhere, and amount of funding requested from this scheme.
3. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Marks Available
Quality of the proposal in terms of meeting programme objectives	35
Experience and expertise of the team	35
Anticipated value for money	30
Total	100

4. The evaluation process will also consider the requirement for a balanced regional distribution of initiatives across the scheme.
5. If applicants are having issues accessing the application on [submit.com](#), please email creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie for assistance before 24th January 2024.

Appendix

Range of project types previously supported

What types of projects have been successful?

A range of different types of projects were successfully funded, from projects rooted in specific local tradition, to others at national scale; supporting a wide spectrum of creative engagement. An illustrative selection of the projects supported is detailed below.

Rocking and Bopping in Longford

Rocking and Bopping in Longford engaged local traditional and show-band musicians to visit the four residential healthcare facilities in Longford a number of times. This included a special event in their location library with refreshments. This project provided some live musical entertainment to the older community currently living in care and supported both young and experienced musicians in the county. Other local active retirement groups were also invited to come along for the event with a dance floor inside and outside if the weather allowed. The Longford County Council Arts Service assisted in the auditioning and recruiting of local musicians. With musicians like Declan Nerney as their Age Friendly Ambassador, he spearheaded some of the events.

Musicians on Call in Limerick City and County Council & Clare and Tipperary County Councils with artistic partners Music & Health Ireland

Musicians-on-Call was a project connecting person-centred live music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals in the Midwest. The project is delivered by a Midwest regional team of specifically trained professional musicians working with Music & Health Ireland. The approach is driven by equity of experience for all and a shared social experience. Key legacy aspects of this project include the development of a Music & Health Ireland regional team of professional musicians, and support for an increased confidence and music skills of healthcare staff to support their residents during the Musicians-On-Call programme and afterwards.