



# ***Parent Peer Support Fund***

## **Guidance Note for Applicants**

### **Summary**

Goal 2 of Supporting Parents: A National Model of Parenting Support Services is to promote greater access to parenting support services.

Parent peer support is the instrumental, social and informational support provided from one parent to another in an effort to reduce isolation, stigmatisation and to assist parents in navigating child serving systems and provide other relevant life experiences.

Research suggests that parent peer support groups promote healthy parenting skills, an increased sense of empowerment, and a feeling of belonging.

### **The Fund:**

We are delighted to announce the launch of the Parent Peer Support Fund to support statutory, community, and voluntary organisations leading or co-ordinating peer support initiatives for parents and those in a parenting role. The activities funded should focus on building on existing or emerging best practice in the areas of parent peer support. We encourage applications from organisations already providing peer supports for parents and those wishing to launch new initiatives.

### ***Aims of the Fund:***

- Provide easier access for parents or those in a parenting role to peer supports
- Raise awareness of and create more parent peer support activities within statutory, community and voluntary sector settings
- Develop resources in partnership with parents rather than delivered to parents
- Encourage parent peer support groups in communities which have not previously had access to such a resource



### *Definition of Parent*

Supporting Parents defines a parent as any person with a parenting role, which is any person with primary or major responsibility for the care of a child under the age of 18 years. The term parent is applied in the most inclusive manner as possible, and includes biological parents, adoptive parents, foster carers, step-parents, kinship carers, and guardians.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

The fund is open to practitioners and service providers working in the community, voluntary and statutory sectors who work with parents or those in a parenting role to facilitate the development and support of parent peer support groups.

### **Funding Availability:**

Funding up to a maximum of €2,000 per applicant is available on a one off basis only.

The Parent Peer Support Fund will initially be a pilot fund subject to review. It will be open to applications for funding support for a fixed term only.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Advertising /Promotional costs specific to the event
- Parent peer to peer networking and knowledge sharing events
- Knowledge sharing tools or resource development
- Training workshops and seminars
- Parent Peer Coaching and mentoring programmes
- Facilitator fees
- Venue hire and catering
- Administration costs – not to exceed 15% of overall funding awarded



### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Capital costs
- Equipment purchase & rental
- Costs already specifically covered by other funding including those who received funding under the Parent and Toddler Group Grants Initiative
- Travel costs

### **Application Process**

**The 2022 Parent Peer Support Fund is open for applications until Friday 18 November 2022.**

As this is a pilot programme, grant allocations will be awarded on a singular basis, up to a maximum of €2,000 per applicant. On-going funding will not be available.

Funding will be made available to successful applicants in January 2023.

**All funding must be expended by 31 December of the year funding is awarded.** Funding that has not been fully spent by this date must be de-committed i.e. returned to the DCEDIY.

### **Selection and Assessment process**

- Please submit your application by the closing date, no late applications will be accepted. You may be requested to send additional documents or information to support your application.
- The assessment criteria will be as follows:
  - Overall strength of project proposal by reference to planned activities
  - Degree to which the planned outcomes meet the goals of Supporting Parents
  - Value for money
- If approved, an appropriate small grant contract will be agreed, after which the funding will be released in 2023. Applicants who have been successful must agree to the Terms and Conditions of the DCEDIY Contract.
- All Applicants will be notified in writing the decision of the panel. The Assessment Panel's decision is final.
- All funding provided must be expended by end December 2023. Any unspent funds at the end of the calendar year must be returned to DCEDIY.
- The number of awards will be dependent upon the quality of applicants at the time of application. All awards are based on funding availability.
- Canvassing will disqualify.



**The following core criteria will apply:**

- Applicants must agree to provide feedback on the delivery of the parent peer support group/event(s)
- Applicants must agree to including the Supporting Parents logo on any material relating to the delivery of activities under this funding
- A post-delivery survey will be issued to successful applicants of the fund. Information captured will reflect the type of event hosted, location, demographic information relating to attendees. Those who display best-practice supports may be invited to speak at the Supporting Parents Cross-Government Parenting Support Network – established to share learning and highlight best practice.
- Applicants must be based in the Republic of Ireland and make its impact in the Republic of Ireland.

**Monitoring and verification**

Financial and activity monitoring and verification information and documents will be required on project completion, including:

- A financial and a narrative report on the project within six weeks following completion of the proposed activities.
- Grantees must comply with the Statement of Principles for Grantees of *Circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds*.