



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369  
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [michael.healyrae@oireachtas.ie](mailto:michael.healyrae@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Healy- Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 55483/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Details supplied: Minister with regard to the grant that is becoming available regarding equine therapy for children with disabilities. I am aware of the large amount of applications that have been received but can anything be done with regard to when applicants will know if they will receive this grant or not. The date has been pushed back to the week beginning on the 22nd of January can this date be brought forward to inform the applicants on whether their applications are successful or not

**HSE Response**

**Childrens Disability Services Grant Scheme**

Additional funding has been provided to Childrens Disability Services under a new grant scheme.

It is important to note that the Children's Disability Services Grant Fund is open to organisations, including community groups and service providers and aims to support children who are on a waiting list for Children's Disability Network Team services.

There has been a huge response from voluntary and community groups and private agencies, with almost 500 applications for funding, ranging from proposals for several thousand euro to larger projects seeking in excess of one million euro over three years.

Including equine therapy, there was a wide and varied range of proposals received.

Due to the volume of applications and the additional administrative work involved in co-ordinating and collating the proposals, we have had to revise the anticipated time-frame for the assessment process and the award of funding to successful proposals.

A panel will assess all applications based on the following criteria:


- Quality and coherence of proposal;



- Contribution to wellbeing of children and families
- Potential lasting impact
- Capacity and sustainability of providers to deliver person-centred services and comply with standards
- Value for money

We propose to issue letters to successful applicants in the week beginning 22<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and two weeks later, in the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, we will commence the process of engagement with successful applicants around the drawdown of funds.

Yours Sincerely,



**Bernard O'Regan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**

