

PRESS RELEASE



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Minister Foley awards Childminding Development Grants to over 400 Childminders

- Total value of awards under the Childminding Development Grants is up 7% on 2024 and up 22% on 2023, and is at the highest level since the Grant scheme was introduced.
- 413 childminders have been successful and will be awarded a combined funding total of over €410,000.

16 May 2025

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley T.D., today announced the 2025 Childminding Development Grant awards, which will see 413 childminders across the country receive €411,338 in combined funding – the highest number of recipients and highest amount of funding ever awarded under the annual Grant scheme. The Minister’s support for the Grants reflects her ongoing commitment to the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-28.

The Minister said:

“Childminders are an essential part of our early learning and care and school-age childcare sector and of our local communities. I am delighted to be able to support an increase in the number of childminders benefiting from the Childminding Development Grant – and to support childminders to enhance quality and safety in their service.

“The Childminding Development Grant is one of a range of supports provided to childminders through the National Action Plan for Childminding, which remains a priority for the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. As a result of the new regulations introduced in 2024, childminders can now register with Tusla and parents who use childminders can now benefit from the National Childcare Scheme.”

The Childminding Development Grant aims to support childminders to enhance quality and safety in their service through the purchase of toys, childcare equipment, safety equipment, equipment to support inclusion, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and the

Arts, as well as IT equipment to assist childminders to engage with training and registration processes.

The Grants were open to all childminders, including those planning to open a childminding business in 2025. 75% of the grant is paid in advance to help childminders with the upfront costs of purchasing equipment.

Successful applicants will receive information about their grant awards over the coming days.

The increase in the number of awards reflects the rising demand for the Grant among childminders. It also reflects the Government's commitment to support childminders to prepare for registration with Tusla. In line with the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028, regulations written specifically for childminders came into effect for the first time in September 2024, making it possible for all childminders to register with Tusla and take part in the National Childcare Scheme (NCS).

Those childminders who were previously exempt from regulation have a three-year transition period until 2027 during which they are now able to register with Tusla but are not yet required to do so.

For further information about the National Action Plan for Childminding, see www.gov.ie/childminding

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Note to Editor:

A breakdown of grants by county is included in the table below:

City / County Childcare Committee area	Number of successful applicants	Total € Amount of grants by CCC area
Carlow	11	€11,000
Cavan	17	€16,700
Clare	19	€19,000
Cork City	11	€11,000
Cork County	22	€22,000
Donegal	12	€12,000
Dublin City	12	€12,000
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	17	€16,900
Fingal	26	€26,000
Galway	25	€24,500
Kerry	19	€19,000
Kildare	11	€11,000
Kilkenny	5	€5,000
Laois	5	€5,000

Leitrim	3	€3,000
Limerick	35	€35,000
Longford	3	€3,000
Louth	9	€9,000
Mayo	16	€16,000
Meath	21	€20,990
Monaghan	11	€11,000
Offaly	4	€4,000
Roscommon	10	€10,000
Sligo	11	€10,850
South Dublin	18	€18,000
Tipperary	12	€12,000
Waterford	14	€13,998
Westmeath	10	€9,400
Wexford	10	€10,000
Wicklow	14	€14,000
Totals	413	€411,338