



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 creative initiatives and promote 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 has agreed to support successful proposals for live music in residential healthcare facilities through the Creative Ireland Programme.

Funding

Live Music Performances in Residential Healthcare Settings 2025 will be funded by Creative Ireland and a contribution from the Department of Health through the Creative Arts and Health Working Group. The funding available for this scheme in 2025 is €200,000.

General Requirements

1. Local authority Culture and Creativity Teams are invited to submit a single cohesive proposal under the Live Music Performances in Residential Healthcare Settings Scheme 2025.
2. Successful initiatives must be completed no later than November 2025.
3. Proposals from the Culture and Creativity Team must:
 - a) demonstrate creative quality, with significant and sustained reach amongst the older community - the scheme is not focusing support toward once off events;
 - b) provide for final reporting ;
 - c) clearly indicate that local authority colleagues working to support the Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland Programmes are jointly involved in their submission;

- d) 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
- e) 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.
- f) Proposals must be of a demonstrably high quality of live music performance.
- g) The proposal must make some provision for a prior consultation to understand local creative needs.
- h) 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 one 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.

Important Dates

24th February — Fund Opens for Applications

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

4th March — Online Briefing Session

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

Register [here](#).

14th March — Closing date

Proposals should be submitted through submit.com by this date.

November 2025 — Deadline to draw down funds.

The timeframe for the projects to run are April 2025 to November 2025.

All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed by 28th March 2025.

If you have any queries about the funding scheme or the application process, please email creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie using the subject heading “Live Music Performance Funding Scheme 2025”

Application and Evaluation Process

1. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 14th March 2025** (close of business).
2. **Applications must be submitted through submit.com here and should clearly describe:**
 - a) the creative programme of engagement, delivery schedule and expected outcomes;
 - b) how the objectives of the Live Music Scheme 2025 will be met;
 - c) experience and expertise of programme partners and management; and
 - d) 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 28th February 2025.

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.

The Rí Rá Sessions with Wexford County Council and creative partners

This Traditional Irish Music and Dance programme saw exceptionally talented Wexford-based band The Wild Turkeys provide twelve lively music sessions for residents from three HSE-managed nursing homes across County Wexford. Movement expert Vivian Brodie-Hayes and Sean Nós Dancer Irene Cunningham assisted and encouraged any residents to move to their ability, and included the use of light percussion instruments.

The Rí Rá Sessions acted as outreach for the concerts and sessions strand of Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann which took place in Wexford in 2024. The aim was that residents would feel part of the exciting atmosphere that the Fleadh brings, and connected to the world outside of the home. The Fleadh link was created to generate a sense of belonging and involvement in community matters through pleasure and play, engendering happiness and joy. The sessions were delivered across four weeks to align with the timeline of the Fleadh.

Music in the Moment with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and creative partners

This engaging programme of live performances brought high quality cultural music experiences to older people living in residential settings in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area. The aim was to have a positive impact on the lives of older people, including those living with dementia.

Music in the Moment enabled Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to work with highly skilled musicians, Ruairí O'Shea, Eamon Sweeney and Lisa McGuinness, and

Gerald Peregrine's Mobile Music Machine, who delivered six interactive music performances in five different settings across DLR. These performances were very popular and hugely impactful.

