



CHILDREN'S PROMISE

GRANTS PROGRAMME

**HARNESSING CHILDHOOD POTENTIAL
THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED
COLLABORATIONS**

GRANTEE PROJECTS 2023

KHF KATHARINE
HOWARD
FOUNDATION

The Katharine Howard Foundation has supported organisations focused on addressing child poverty since 1979, mainly through investment in community-based programmes focused on 'prevention and early intervention' initiatives, early learning and education, or parenting support programmes. It has also supported research into areas where there may be service 'gaps' or 'needs', in recognition of the fact that it can be difficult to secure funding to generate and capture evidence on local or regional needs. Katharine Howard Foundation has a strong ethos of working in collaboration with other funders and statutory bodies and with community-based programmes. Our aim is to encourage the best outcomes for programmes, reduce duplication and ensure there is collective, shared learning and understanding.

INTRODUCTION

The 'Children's Promise' grants programme is a new programme within Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF), an independent foundation focused on improving the lives of vulnerable young children and their families. KHF particularly focuses on prevention and early intervention initiatives, to support the best life outcomes for young children. This grants programme is a collaboration with Community Foundation Ireland and we are grateful for their support.

In 2023, we received 172 applications, completed to a high standard. The projects outlined in the applications highlighted the ingenuity and commitment of the organisations to a range of pressing areas for social action across Ireland. They included a high number of applications for sensory spaces, therapies and urgent refurbishments to strengthen service delivery. After a rigorous selection process, 17 organisations will be supported through financial and non-financial supports. These organisations work with a wide range of complex issues, but all have a common objective: *to harness the childhood potential in particularly vulnerable communities, through supports for pregnant mothers, young children and their families.*

AIM OF THE GRANTS PROGRAMME

The 'Children's Promise' grants programme aims to support community-based organisations working with young children and their families in disadvantaged areas, who may not reach their potential due to the corrosive impact of poverty. The programme is a promise from KHF to provide financial and other supports to selected organisations, to support and develop the potential of the children engaged with the organisations. It aims to build on the powerful work taking place at statutory and community-level to address child poverty.



PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE 'CHILDREN'S PROMISE' GRANT PROGRAMME

This grants programme focuses on 'promising projects and practices' within community-based organisations, which aim to prevent or intervene at an early stage in addressing the potential impact of poverty on young children and their families. It encourages applications from small, collaborative projects that focus on gaps in provision and innovative approaches to addressing these gaps.

The 'Children's Promise' grants programme supports organisations in the following categories:

- A.** Early years / young children projects, within community-based settings.
- B.** Parental support programmes.
- C.** Research into promising programmes or gaps in provision that may help to build policy support in those areas.
- D.** Capacity building within an organisation.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

Katharine Howard Foundation believes in partnering with organisations, in addition to providing funding. We know that many programmes are run on tight resources, with committed staff and we want to help them to build their capabilities as an organisation and to aim for 'realistic' change. We know this won't always be linear and there will be challenges along the way. Therefore, both the one-year and multi-year programmes that are selected for the 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme will be offered non-financial supports, such as participation in a learning network with other grantees, strategic planning, help with building an evidence base and sustainability.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S PROMISE GRANTS PROGRAMME SELECTED PROJECTS 2023

PROJECTS RECEIVING THREE-YEAR GRANTS

HILL STREET FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE, DUBLIN 1



Hill Street Family Resource Centre (FRC) is an intercultural organisation dedicated to supporting local families and children in Dublin's North-East Inner City. Hill Street FRC's work is rooted in community engagement and responding to the needs of local families. Our centre is unique, in that it works, for the most part, with parents/carers and their children, aged 0-6. Through the provision of high-quality, low-cost early education and care, children attending our centre thrive and develop in a nurturing, respectful and safe environment.

PROJECT AIM: *Roll out of our Preparation for Preschool Programme nationally. The programme was designed specifically to meet the needs of families whose background may make engaging with the education system challenging.*

LE CHÉILE NATIONAL SCHOOL, LIMERICK



Le Chéile, a DEIS band 1 primary school, provides pre-school and primary education for 3 to 12 year olds. As part of our commitment to supporting our pupils and their families, we offer before and after-school provision for children, therapies and adult education including parenting programmes. Our primary mission is to provide children and parents with a safe environment to learn, be informed, receive support, and have access to specific purpose services. These include the breakfast club, referrals to early intervention and specialist services that respond to the high level of social, emotional and educational needs of children and families living in the community.

PROJECT AIM: *We want to create a 'Green Giants' school that promotes environmental sustainability, healthy eating, and outdoor education by incorporating gardens, flowers, fruit and vegetables and plants for parents and the community.*



ANEW SUPPORT SERVICES CLG, DUBLIN 2



Anew supports pregnant women, new mothers and their babies particularly those experiencing homelessness. We provide intensive practical and emotional support, while working to secure appropriate housing and accommodation for them as soon as possible. Our aims are to: provide preventative and early intervention support for better lifelong outcomes – to break the cycle of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage; improve post-natal health and reduce homelessness for pregnant women and new mothers and, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of the women and babies we support.

PROJECT AIM: *This project provides pregnancy support and nurturing for pregnant women and new mothers experiencing homelessness. We provide perinatal education and care for the women and self-care through individualised and group support.*

IRISH FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION, DUBLIN 24



IFCA promotes partnership between everyone involved in foster care to work for, and in the best interests of children in care; provides support and learning opportunities; creates greater public awareness of, and promotes foster care; advocates for excellence for all involved in foster care in Ireland.

PROJECT AIM: *To enhance the relationships of foster carers and birth families with babies and young children in foster care from the earliest possible opportunity, to provide specific emotional and therapeutic supports and learning opportunities that promote their wellbeing and development and inform decision-making and practice responses.*

CLONMEL COMMUNITY MOTHERS PROGRAMME, TIPPERARY



Our organisation is an established home visiting community support programme, serving parents with children 0-5 years in the greater Clonmel and surrounding areas of Tipperary. Using an Infant Mental Health model to provide personalised information and support to parents during their children's earliest years, helping parents to become more confident in their roles and proactive in their children's development, with a dual focus on prevention and wellness. The Community Mothers provide individual (1:1) home visits and group based support. All of our services enjoy multicultural participation.

PROJECT AIM: *To provide intensive support to vulnerable pregnant mothers, helping them to navigate the medical care model of maternity. The project focuses on reducing high levels of prolonged stress during pregnancy, providing the mother with additional supports.*

MILLENNIUM FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE, TIPPERARY



Millennium Family Resource Centre provides a range of family and community supports across the rural Slieveardagh area of Tipperary. This includes parenting programmes, one-to-one parenting support, preschool childcare service, play therapy, youth and adult counselling, early intervention therapeutic programmes for children, parent and toddler groups, breastfeeding support group, women's groups, supports for those parenting alone, community education programmes, capacity building for community groups, eldercare services including meals on wheels and community laundry services, dementia café and seniors alert providers.

PROJECT AIM: *To determine the level of autism and other additional needs at preschool and junior infant in our catchment area and to provide an evidence base to expand our therapeutic services through funding sources.*

AMBER WOMEN'S REFUGE, KILKENNY



Amber Women's Refuge provides emergency refuge accommodation and a 24hr Helpline offering compassionate, non-judgmental support and information to women and children in Kilkenny and Carlow who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. We deliver safe, inclusive, client centred services both at the refuge and in the community. We have been supporting and protecting women and children for over 20 years.

PROJECT AIM: *Roll out of the Triple P Positive Parenting Programme to mothers who are victim-survivors of domestic violence & abuse and build our capacity to offer this programme to a greater number of women.*

MEATH WOMEN'S REFUGE & SUPPORT SERVICES, MEATH



We provide a comprehensive range of support services, including refuge accommodation to women and children who have experienced domestic violence in Co. Meath. Our mission is to empower women and children who experience domestic violence and abuse on their journey towards safety, wellbeing and recovery. Our Children's Programme has two main areas of work- supporting children in refuge for the duration of their stay and supporting children in the community who have experienced domestic violence but may not have required refuge accommodation.

PROJECT AIM: *To evaluate the impact of our children's programme in the community and apply the findings to influence policy and practice to improve outcomes for children who have experienced domestic violence.*

KINSHIP CARE IRELAND, DUBLIN 1



Kinship Care Ireland

Kinship Care Ireland in partnership with kinship families and key stakeholders, promotes the recognition, rights and entitlements of children, young people, and families in kinship care, through the provision of information, supports, services and advocacy, for systems and legislative change.

PROJECT AIM: *Kinship Care Ireland wishes to further develop and deliver specialised parenting supports to kinship families and engage kinship carers in systems and policy change.*

EAST CORK TRAVELLER PROJECT, CORK



East Cork Travellers are a support and advocacy service for the Traveller community. We focus on 6 key areas Accommodation, Employment, Family support, Physical health, Mental health and Culture and work via outreach, in schools, through other organisations and by referral. We provide one on one support, run women's groups, educational courses and work with state services and other organisations with the aim of empowering, knowledge sharing and supporting the traveller community in East Cork.

PROJECT AIM: *Directly target parents in the Traveller Community who are a minority group facing major disadvantage in terms of education and health services and development of a new project focusing on establishing a support group and network for parents with young children.*

SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP, CO. DUBLIN



Southside Partnership creates collaborative partnerships to develop solutions to poverty and disadvantage in DLR, across community development, education and employment. PEEP+DLR is one of these interagency/community collaborations, using the evidence based PEEP: Parents Early Education Partnership - Learning Together Programme, supporting attachment/bonding and early education, increasing emotional, social and educational outcomes for infants/toddlers in partnership with their parents.

PROJECT AIM: *Consolidate the Parents Early Education Partnership - Learning Together Programme (PEEP+ programme) grow the programme and skill-base in two new areas and develop a business case for core state funding.*

PROJECTS RECEIVING ONE-YEAR GRANTS

BEDFORD ROW FAMILY PROJECT, LIMERICK



We support the whole family unit affected by imprisonment and addiction. We work with the family members on the outside and the person serving the sentence in Limerick Prison. Our goal is to break the cycle of imprisonment within families and communities.

PROJECT AIM: *To increase the number of children accessing our play therapy service. We have identified that the children who went to first year during COVID are struggling with confidence and anxiety. We aim to assign a family support worker to the parent on the outside and a social worker on the inside to ensure a wraparound service is delivered to families.*

OUR LADY'S NURSERY BALLYMUN, DUBLIN 11



Our Nursery is a community based childcare facility, catering for 100 children daily, aged from 6 months to school age. Children attending the nursery are all referred to us from Tulsa Child and Family Service, H.S.E Public Health Nurses, Tusla Family Support Workers and Homeless organisations. Many of our children come from families that are experiencing adversity such as homelessness, addiction, and mental health problems.

PROJECT AIM: *To build our capacity strategically as a service for vulnerable children and families by reviewing our current work, engaging and consulting with children, families, staff, the local community and funders to develop a strategic plan to meet the emerging needs of families in Ballymun.*

TACÚ BALLINROBE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE, MAYO



We are a family Resource Centre based in Ballinrobe in South Mayo. We provide supports and services to Individuals and families from the Lake District Area of South Mayo. We also collaborate at local, County, Regional and National Level and run two projects which covers the County of Mayo, Mayo Community Based Family Support Project.

PROJECT AIM: *To deliver a suite of supports and activities to support the essential needs, creativity, play and improved health and wellbeing of children and their Parents, with a particular focus of including families from the Direct Provision Centre into the events and services.*

SAOIRSE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES, DUBLIN 24



Saoirse Domestic violence services provide a range of support and accommodation services across southwest Dublin and west Wicklow including 24-hour helpline, crisis refuge accommodation, safe house accommodation, children's support services, community outreach support and court accompaniment.

We are a women and children's refuge offering crisis accommodation to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

PROJECT AIM: *To upskill staff to promote positive mental health and attachment through evidence-based parent-child programmes.*

HURUMA CLG T/A WELLSPRINGS, CORK



Wellsprings Residential (16 -23 years) and Aftercare 16 +:

1. To relieve poverty and disadvantage by providing and running a home at Wandersford Quay, Cork that will create a home environment for young girls who need alternative accommodation or who require further assistance to make the transition from residential care or foster care to independent living;
2. To empower each girl to acknowledge her own self-worth and to enable her to become a responsible and independent person.
3. To offer an outreach programme to each girl who was in Wellsprings.

PROJECT AIM: *Preventative and early intervention support to children, families and parents experiencing disadvantage and whose parents have a care history.*

DÓCHAS MIDWEST AUTISM SUPPORT, LIMERICK



Dóchas provides support to children and adults with Autism and their families in the Mid-West region. Our organisation's objectives are to improve outcomes and to support children and young people with Autism; support families including parents and siblings and also assist in accessing information

on health, education and benefits; provide information on Autism to the wider public, schools and organisations in the Midwest and; promote Autism Awareness and services in the Midwest region to improve community understanding.

PROJECT AIM: *Increase the family support we can provide for the deprived communities of Moyross, Southill, Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park in the most deprived city in Ireland. Create awareness in these communities of services available to families of children with autism.*

THANK YOU!

The Chairperson, Trustees and KHF team would like to thank all the applicant organisations, and everyone who has contributed to the development of the grants programme to date. We would also like to thank Community Foundation Ireland for their support. We look forward to working with the selected projects and celebrating their positive impact in the years to come.



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