



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
agus Comhionannais  
Department of Justice  
and Equality



# **Dormant Accounts Funding Scheme 2018**

## **Anti-Human Trafficking Unit**

Call for proposals to research and assess  
the safety and wellbeing of persons who  
engage in sexual activity for payment

Guidance Document

## What is the Dormant Accounts Fund?

The Dormant Accounts Fund is a scheme for the disbursement of unclaimed funds from accounts in credit institutions in Ireland. The fund is administered under the 2001 Dormant Accounts Act, together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003 and the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Acts 2005 to 2012.

The above legislation introduces a scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed by account holders for the purposes of programmes or projects to assist:

1. The personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged
2. The educational development of persons who are disadvantaged
3. Persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000).

The current [Disbursement Scheme](#) for the Dormant Accounts Fund runs from 2017-2019 and sets out the priorities for the funding for the period. Since July 2017, the statutory arrangements governing the Scheme are overseen by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, with the functions delegated to the Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development.

## What type of project will be supported by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit?

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 criminalises the purchase of sexual services in an effort to target the demand for prostitution and thus the exploitation, including trafficking, which is associated with organised prostitution. The legislation also decriminalises those involved in providing sexual services.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit is seeking research proposals from organisations that will assess of the impact of the above provisions on the safety and well-being of persons who engage in sexual activity for payment.

An assessment of the impact of the law would better enable us to understand the risks to the welfare of many highly vulnerable people engaged in sex work who may be at risk of abuse or exploitation, including trafficking.

The [2018 Dormant Accounts Action Plan](#) provides for a total of €250,000 to be made available to initiatives aiming to raise awareness or to undertake research in relation to the **criminalisation of the purchase of sex**. This Call for Proposals focuses specifically on **research projects**. A separate call for proposals in relation to awareness raising is envisaged at a later stage.

The Department is seeking proposals that will:

- Document and assess the experiences of individuals engaged in sex work through the use of appropriate recording systems. Research can include both qualitative and quantitative methodology.
- Based on the evidence collected, produce a report assessing the impact of the Act on those who are engaged in prostitution.

Projects will be expected to commence in October 2018 for a duration of one year with an interim report to be submitted to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit by the end of April 2019. It is envisaged that the outcomes of the selected projects will inform the review process required under Section 4 of the Act<sup>1</sup>.

Projects that seek to build on existing research and that re-use previously developed resources will be welcomed. Furthermore, in appraising which projects are to be funded, the Department will look favourably on applications that demonstrate partnerships between organisations that are involved in supporting people currently engaged in sex work.

The maximum grant available per project is €75,000. It is possible that more than one project will be selected for funding. Applicants will be required to provide an estimated project budget as part of their application.

### Who can apply?

Invitations are sought from organisations with a proven record of engagement with this target group or with relevant research experience.

It is important to note that this funding is only available to non-government, voluntary, not-for-profit organisations based in the Republic of Ireland.

Should an organisation seek to work with a State, non-State or international stakeholder as part of their project, the **stakeholder's agreement must be provided in writing** as part of the application.

### The Application Process

Applicants must submit an application form to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. Sufficient detail must be provided on the form to facilitate evaluation of the proposal. Supporting material relevant to the content of the proposal can be submitted with the application.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2017/act/2/section/27/enacted/en/html#sec27>

Completed application forms and supporting documentation should be returned via email to [AHTU\\_inbox@justice.ie](mailto:AHTU_inbox@justice.ie) and marked Dormant Account Funding Scheme 2018 in the subject line.

The closing time and date for receipt of completed applications is **6pm on Friday, 21 September 2018**.

Queries on the scheme can also be directed to [AHTU\\_inbox@justice.ie](mailto:AHTU_inbox@justice.ie)

## Data Protection

The Department of Justice and Equality will treat all information and personal data in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act, 2018.<sup>2</sup>

## The Evaluation Process

Each application submitted will be assessed as to its suitability based on the evaluation criteria included in the Appendix. The number of grants to be awarded is dependent on the number and quality of the applications in the context of the available budget of the Scheme.

## Conditions of the Scheme

Please note that the Department of Justice and Equality will not fund the following items under the Dormant Accounts Scheme 2018:

- Overheads e.g. heating, electricity, rent;
- Projects which give rise to commercial activity or profit;

All successful applicants will be issued with a funding agreement. This agreement will include a number of standard conditions and may include conditions that are specific to the application.

## Key Dates

Call for proposals issued	Friday 31 August 2018
Application deadline	6pm Friday 21 September 2018
Notification of decisions	End of September 2018

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Data\\_Protection](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Data_Protection)

## Appendix 1: Evaluation Criteria for Project Proposals

Project proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

### **Demonstration of Need**

Extent to which the applicant has demonstrated a gap in the knowledge and the benefits that would result from improved understanding in this area.

### **Methodology**

The extent to which applicant has clearly described the key objectives and actions of their project, including the proposed methodology.

### **Costs and Governance**

The extent to which value for money of project has been considered and the clarity of the projected financial costs; the structures in place to manage the project. If the project involves a partner/partners, applicants must explain how they will be involved in the management and delivery of the project and if there will be onward transmission of funds.

### **Experience and Capacity**

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the capacity to undertake the proposed activities; this may include reference to similar-type projects; if the project involves a partner/partners, applicants must explain how they will be involved in the management and delivery of the project.

## Appendix 2: Checklist

**Prior to submitting your application, please check you have:**

Completed all relevant sections of the Application Form [ ]

Enclosed a letter from Chairperson/Board (Section 5) [ ]

Noted all of the declarations in Section 5 [ ]

Enclosed written agreement from project stakeholders (if applicable) [ ]