



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

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### **Minister Approves €8.3 Million For Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services**

The Minister for Social Affairs, Séamus Brennan T.D., has approved funding of €8.3million to over 540 voluntary and community groups nationwide providing marriage counselling, marriage preparation, child counselling and bereavement counselling supports.

Minister Brennan said: "These grants demonstrate the Government's continued commitment to offering practical assistance to help families and individuals at particularly stressful periods. The voluntary and community groups receiving funding are helping to enhance family stability and to assist families by providing a safety valve for people - men, women and children - who need support. This year's increased allocation of €8.3million means that established groups will receive improved support and 20 more groups will receive funding. More than 40 groups will receive grants in excess of €40,000."

**(County-by-county breakdown of grants is attached).**

Marriage counselling accounts for 58% of this year's funding, bereavement counselling and support 18%, child counselling 14% and marriage preparation 10%. This year's additional funding provides for an 8% increase in marriage, child and bereavement counselling and a 3% increase in marriage preparation courses.

The policy objectives, which inform funding allocations, are - continued investment in the established major providers of services so that they can consolidate their lead role in the provision of high quality counselling services, the provision of a regional network of accessible support by investment in significant providers of services in key catchment areas throughout the country and additional support for organisations providing services in disadvantaged communities.

Continued investment is provided in the allocation of grants for established major providers of services including: ACCORD Headquarters, Maynooth granted €1m; ACCORD Dublin, which is responsible for 10 - 12 centres serving the Dublin/Wicklow



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region, granted €611,000; MRCS, Dublin granted €500,000 and Cork Marriage Counselling Centre granted €333,000.

The Family Support Agency administers the scheme of grants.

**ENDS**



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### Note for News Editor

2005 Scheme of Grants for Marriage, Child and Bereavement Counselling Services	
<b>County Breakdown</b>	
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Carlow	69,800
Cavan	66,050
Clare	75,870
Cork	669,450
Donegal	158,650
Dublin	3,457,285
Galway	296,350
Kerry	255,800
Kildare	1,112,300
Kilkenny	21,150
Laois	38,100
Leitrim	13,700
Limerick	187,700
Longford	35,300
Louth	315,850
Mayo	287,200
Meath	110,110
Monaghan	64,450
Offaly	46,400
Roscommon	271,000
Sligo	88,200
Tipperary	186,700
Waterford	194,485
Westmeath	67,850
Wexford	83,700
Wicklow	79,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,253,100</b>

### **The Family Support Agency**

The Family Support Agency (FSA) was established by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2003. Its mission is *to promote family and community well being through the provision of appropriate supports and services to families.*



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The FSA provides a family mediation service, develops marriage and relationship counselling, undertakes research and advises the Minister on family issues and works in partnership with the community and voluntary sector. This year it has been allocated a budget of €24.5million, €4.1million more than in 2004.

The Family Support Agency:

- Provides a family mediation service to help couples, who have decided to separate, negotiate their separation without acrimony.
- Supports, promotes and develops the provision of marriage and relationship counselling and other family support services.
- Supports, promotes and develops the Family and Community Services Resource Centres programme.
- Provides and disseminates information about these services and other family issues.
- Provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for these purposes.
- Undertakes or commissions research into matters related to its functions.