



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

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### **€363,000 For Family Resource Centres – Mary Coughlan Minister Of Social And Family Affairs**

Mary Coughlan T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today approved grants totalling €362,983 to nearly 60 Family Resource Centres nationwide. The funds will help the centres to recruit, train and develop staff, purchase equipment and improve services by networking with other groups.

"I am delighted to approve these funds which are administered by the Family Support Agency under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme. The Resource Centre Programme is an ideal example of voluntary and community groups combining with Government to provide services to people in their own communities, especially those who are marginalized and socially excluded," said Minister Coughlan.

"I am committed to this Government's aim of building an inclusive and caring society. Government cannot exclusively provide the solution; local people and groups providing targeted and local services, in partnership with Government, will achieve this goal. This conviction is borne out by nearly €2m extra funding I have provided for the Resource Centre Programme this year," said Minister Coughlan.

"The Family Support Agency, which I established last May, has recently sent me its first Strategic Plan, which covers the period 2003-2006. I look forward to working with the Agency, over the period of the strategy, in establishing it as a major force in family support and policy," added Minister Coughlan.

Each year, in addition to providing core-funding to groups supported under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme, the Family Support Agency offers grants to groups for additional work and initiatives, for example:

- Networking grants to encourage projects to network together and to undertake joint training initiatives;
- Small grants to undertake needs analysis or research relevant to the FRC programme or work of the project, training initiatives, etc.;
- Purchase of equipment or purchase or renovation of premises.

The funding is paid under the Family & Community Services Resource Centre Programme, which is administered by the Family Support Agency under the aegis of Minister Coughlan's Department. The total budget for the Family & Community Services Resource Centre programme for this year is €6.98m and was €5.11m last year.

**ENDS 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003**

**For Further Information: Carmel Fields, Ph. 7043860 or 087 2547232**

**Eddie Walsh, Ph. 7043184 or 087 2549683**

**See Attached note for News Editors**



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### Notes for News Editor

<b>Grants under the Family &amp; Community Services Resource Centre Programme</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Carlow</b>	<b>8,589</b>
<b>Cavan</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Clare</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Cork</b>	<b>33,575</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	<b>8,280</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	<b>64,616</b>
<b>Galway</b>	<b>25,761</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	<b>99,377</b>
<b>Kilkenny</b>	<b>5,622</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>	<b>2,491</b>
<b>Limerick</b>	<b>15,861</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	<b>4,596</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	<b>6,900</b>
<b>Offaly</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Roscommon</b>	<b>3,883</b>
<b>Sligo</b>	<b>12,258</b>
<b>Tipperary</b>	<b>43,609</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	<b>11,500</b>
<b>Wexford</b>	<b>4,065</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>362,983</b>

### **Family Resource Centre Programme**

The FRC Programme was established in 1994 with the aim of combating disadvantage and improving the functioning of the family unit. The centres funded under the programme provide special services, such as counselling and information for lone parents, young mothers and socially excluded families. They seek to enhance the self-esteem and potential of people by working closely with them within their communities. They encourage the participation of local people in all aspects of the centres work, including planning and management.



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### **Family Support Agency**

Minister Coughlan formally launched the Family Support Agency on May 15<sup>th</sup> last. Its main task is to protect the family, by supporting the stability of family life and addressing the effects of changing family formation.

The Family Support Agency 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. The Family Support Agency has been allocated a budget of €17.2m for 2003.

The Family Support Agency:

- Supports, promotes and develops the Family and Community Services Resource Centres programme. The number of centres has increased from 10 to over 85 since 1997.
- Provides a family mediation service to help couples, who have decided to separate, negotiate their separation without acrimony. Over the last six years this service has expanded from two centres in Dublin and Limerick to 12 centres through out the country. This figure will increase to 14 by the end of this year.
- Supports, promotes and develops the provision of marriage and relationship counselling and other family support services.
- Provides and disseminates information about these services and other family issues, and
- Provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for these purposes.
- Undertakes or commissions research into matters related to its functions.