

Final 353 Groups Awarded Year Of The Family Funding – Mary Coughlan Minister For Social And Family Affairs.

Mary Coughlan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, has today approved the final 353 awards, totalling €663,000, under her Department's scheme to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family.

"Over 300 groups will receive awards of between €650 and €2,000, with nearly 50 further groups receiving funds in excess of that amount," said Minister Coughlan.

"I am delighted at the success of this special scheme. These latest awards, combined with the family-fun day funding I approved earlier this month, are a fitting way of celebrating and recognising the importance of families and of marking this anniversary year," said Minister Coughlan.

"The largest award, of €22,000, will enable the Irish National Teachers' Organisation to hold a series of nationwide seminars later this year on 'Parenting and Childhood'. The One Parent Exchange Network (OPEN) has been awarded €17,000 towards the production of a national development plan for one-parent families and ACCORD has been awarded €15,000 to hold an all-Ireland photographic competition entitled 'Marriage and Family in the 21st Century'," added Minister Coughlan.

The awards in excess of €2,000 will support once-off events or projects, organised by larger local groups and regional/national groups, focusing on families and family life. These include national conferences, seminars, workshops, and education and training into relevant family topics, including parenting courses, as well as the provision of information focusing on the family, family well being and family supports.

The bulk of the awards, ranging between €650 and €2,000, will enable local voluntary groups to facilitate projects or events to strengthen families in their areas. These include facilitated discussions on family issues, workshops and local neighbourhood events.

Earlier this month Minister Coughlan approved funding under the scheme, of almost €270,000, to 429 groups to host family-fun days.

Last March Minister Coughlan invited family support organisations and family groups to apply for awards marking the 10th anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family. There has been a marvellous response with national, community and parish based groups applying for funding.

Applications were evaluated based on their ability to increase the awareness of family issues at local level taking account of the themes identified following the national family consultation process undertaken in 2003 by the Minister. These issues include parenting and childhood, balancing work and family life, relationships, family caring responsibilities and community supports for families as well as the strengthening of local family networks and supports.

Ends July 28th 2004

Please see the note for news editors attached

Note for News Editors

County analysis of funding approved by Minister Coughlan

County	No. of Awards	Amount €
Carlow	10	18,250
Cavan	11	13,800
Clare	12	32,345
Cork	42	85,450
Donegal	21	25,314
Dublin	65	193,312
Galway	12	21,000
Kerry	16	33,200
Kildare	8	29,200
Kilkenny	6	8,100
Laois	2	2,300
Leitrim	5	5,550
Limerick	12	18,200
Longford	4	5,750
Louth	6	9,450
Mayo	16	20800
Meath	6	13,300
Monaghan	9	10,300
Offaly	10	11,400
Roscommon	14	17,050
Sligo	15	17,300
Tipperary	16	21,540
Waterford	6	6,700
Westmeath	5	9,100
Wexford	14	13,750
Wicklow	10	20,800
Total	353	663,261