



National Advisory Committee on Drugs

Community/Voluntary Sector Research Grant

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

NACD

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) was established in July 2000 to advise the Government in relation to problem drug use in Ireland. The Committee, whose members are drawn from statutory, community, voluntary, academic and research organisations as well as relevant Government Departments, oversees the delivery of a comprehensive drugs research programme.

Research Grant Scheme

In addition to commissioning research on prioritised issues, the NACD has established a *Community/Voluntary Sector Research Grant Scheme* to generate innovative, community-based drugs research.

The Grant Scheme will be awarded to support the development of quality research aimed at:

- promoting a better understanding of drug related issues in communities;
- boosting the research capacity of the community/voluntary sector and consequently, their capacity to influence policy and the planning of services;
- facilitating liaison between community/voluntary organisations, service planners and service providers to optimise the development of needs based policies and services.

Research areas

The Grant scheme is intended to support a broad range of drugs research on issues relating to patterns and trends of problem drug use; the impact of problem drug use; action research on new/pilot projects; evaluation of innovative programmes; and needs assessments for 'at

risk'¹ groups/areas. Applicants, however, should ensure that their research proposal fits into one of the following areas prioritised in the NACD's work programme:

- **Prevention of Problem Drug Use**

Prevention includes activities aimed at reducing the interest in or demand for drugs for example through educating people about drugs, helping to build up their life skills and reduce drug related harm; supporting vulnerable families and 'at risk' groups; restricting the supply of drugs on the market etc. Proposals could examine the effectiveness of existing prevention models, advocate and evaluate new models for different target groups, etc.

- **Prevalence of Problem Drug Use**

Prevalence is concerned with questions such as how many people use drugs, the types of drugs they use, in what areas, at what age, among what groups, the number in contact with treatment services, etc.

- **Consequences of Problem Drug Use**

This area deals with the impact of drug use on individuals, on families and on communities. For example, drug related illnesses (such as HIV, Hepatitis C); drug related deaths; drug dealing and drug related crime; homelessness; social nuisance and anti-social behaviour, etc.

- **Treatment / Rehabilitation of Problem Drug Use**

This includes activities (such as support work, education, employment training, community development, counselling, detoxification, methadone maintenance, rehabilitation, and needle exchanges) which are aimed at helping people who are experiencing problems with drugs to change or modify their drug using behaviour, reduce drug related harm, and/or prevent relapse.

- **Emerging Trends in Problem Drug Use**

New drugs and new patterns of drug use which have developed in areas and/or among specific groups.

Note: *the examples given above are intended as a guideline only. Other proposals, within the areas specified, are warmly welcomed.*

¹ *The National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 Building on Experience highlighted the following 'at risk' groups : early school leavers; people working in prostitution; the homeless and Travellers.*

Eligibility

The Research Grant Scheme is open only to groups/organisations working in the Community and Voluntary sector. However groups may collaborate with other organisations, academic institutions or state agencies.

Applicants do not need to be experts in research as the NACD will provide research training workshops and ongoing support. However, applicants should be familiar with local drug issues, be interested in developing their research capacity, and be willing to liaise with local service providers and planners (e.g. Regional/Local Drug Task Forces, Health Boards/Authorities, local Partnerships etc.) to promote their research and use their findings to inform policy and the planning of services.

Funding should not be used to finance a full time member of staff unless employed to work on the research project only - work contracts should clearly specify this. If groups elect to use some of their funding to contract research assistance, the research work must be fully incorporated into their work schedule so that research capacity is developed within the organisation. In addition, there must be a senior person within the organisation with responsibility to see the project through from beginning to end.

Application Process

In order to encourage applications from groups who may have innovative research ideas but little research expertise, there will be two assessment stages to the application process. The first assessment stage will focus on the organisation proposing the research, its understanding of drug issues, its links with the local community, service providers and planners, and the relevance of the proposed research (see [Assessment Criteria – Stage 1](#)).

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - STAGE 1

- Group's capacity to conduct/host research
- Links with the local community
- Level of understanding of local drugs issues
- Relevance of proposal to the NACD's programme of work
- Benefit to organisation/community/policy
- Links with service providers and planners
- Reasonableness of proposed costs

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend research training workshops (provisionally scheduled for **20-21 March 2002**). These workshops will deal with issues such as literature reviews, fieldwork, research ethics, data gathering and analysis, costing research proposals etc. Following the training workshops, applicants will be required to submit fully developed research proposals by **26 April 2002**. A second selection process, with the emphasis on the criteria below will then be carried out.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - STAGE 2

- Validity and feasibility of the research proposals
- Value added to the NACD's research programme
- Capacity of the group to manage and complete the work on schedule
- Cost of proposal/value for money

It is envisaged that up to 5 research grants will be awarded from a total budget of £100,000. Successful research proposals will be supported and monitored on an ongoing basis by the NACD's Research Officer and Research Advisory Groups will be established to work with each project.

Research projects should start in **June 2002** for completion by the end of **March 2003**. Groups must have the capacity within their organisation to dedicate the necessary time to completing the work during this period.

Interested groups should complete the official application form and return it to Aileen O'Gorman, Research Officer, NACD, Shelbourne House (3rd Floor) Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, or by email to info@nacd.ie by 4.00pm on **Friday 1 February 2002**. Forms received after this date will not be considered.

Electronic versions of the application form may be obtained by email from info@nacd.ie or downloaded from the NACD's website on www.nacd.ie

You can get more information and help with filling in the application form by telephoning the NACD on **01 667 0760** Monday - Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm from now until the closing date.