

Basic Income for The Arts Pilot Scheme

The Irish Government has launched a new and pioneering pilot scheme to support artists and creative arts workers. The Basic Income for the Arts pilot scheme will examine, over a three year period, the impact of a basic income on artists and creative arts workers. Payments of €325 per week will be made to 2,000 eligible artists and creative arts workers.

The scheme was launched by the Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar TD and the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD. It is recognition, at Government level, of the important role of the arts in Irish society. It also places a value on the time spent developing a creative practice and producing art. The main objective of the scheme is to address the financial instability faced by many working in the arts.

- The Basic Income for the Arts pilot scheme will run over a 3-year period (2022 – 2025).
- The scheme will open for applications on 12 April and close on 12 May
- The pilot scheme will be open to eligible artists and creative arts sector workers. It is important to note that that the Basic Income for the Arts is not a Universal Basic Income.
- Grants to the value of €325 per week will be paid to successful participants. Payments will be made on a monthly basis.
- These payments will be reckonable for the purposes of income tax. All successful participants will need to register with Revenue as self-employed
- The Department expects a high volume of applications and it will not be possible to provide funding to all eligible applicants.
- Selection will be a non-competitive process. Once an applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria they will be included in an anonymised random sampling process to determine the pilot participants from the pool of eligible applicants for the BIA Pilot.
- Funding for the scheme will allow for approximately 2,000 eligible applicants to participate in the pilot scheme.

More information and application guidelines here: gov.ie/basicincomearts

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Practicing artists;
- Creative arts workers, or;
- Recently trained applicants.

(see definitions in guidelines)

How to Apply

The portal will open for applications at 1pm on Tuesday April 12th and close at 1pm on Thursday May 12th. Applications may be made through the online application portal which will open on the 12th April. The portal and application form are available in English and in Irish. Application Guidelines [HERE](#).

Application Streams:

The scheme will have two application streams as follows:

Stream 1: Practicing Artists and Creative Arts Workers. This covers all artists and creative arts workers who can demonstrate sufficient evidence of eligibility as set out below.

Stream 2: Recently trained applicants. This stream covers recently trained artists and creative arts workers who cannot yet demonstrate that they have engaged in a creative practice where their creative work makes a key contribution to the production, interpretation or exhibition of the arts.

Please Note: As this is a research pilot, it is important to apply to the stream which best represents your practice currently.

Further information regarding Stream 2: This stream is intended to research the impact of a basic income on those who have completed a relevant training course, graduate degree or an arts related apprenticeship who have not yet engaged in a creative practice. A maximum of 200 places are available under this stream.

Evidence of eligibility / documents to upload

Stream 1: Applicants will be asked to evidence their eligibility as an artist or creative arts worker by uploading two pieces of evidence. There are three categories by which applicants can demonstrate their eligibility, and applicants must be able to provide two pieces of evidence from any of the following three categories:

- Evidence of membership of a relevant resource or art form representative body. Please note this is not a requirement, and/or;
- Proof of income from your work as an artist or a creative arts worker, and/or;
- Proof of active engagement within your creative field/art form.

Stream 2: Applicants under Stream 2 must supply supporting evidence of having been trained in their chosen artform(s); for example by providing evidence of a qualification or training.

Full Applications details [HERE](#).

Selection Process

The Department expects a high volume of applications and it will not be possible to provide funding to all eligible applicants.

Selection will be a non-competitive process. Once an applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria they will be included in an anonymised random sampling process to determine the pilot participants from the pool of eligible applicants for the BIA Pilot.

Funding for the scheme will allow for approximately 2,000 eligible applicants to participate in the pilot scheme.

Available Funding / Payment Amount

Grants to the value of €325 per week will be paid to successful participants.

Payments will be made on a monthly basis.

Tax and Social Welfare Treatment of the Payments

Please note:

- These payments will be reckonable for the purposes of income tax. All successful participants will need to register with Revenue as self-employed and pay Schedule D income tax, where appropriate, on the BIA grant payment.
- Income from the pilot will be liable for Class S PRSI
- The Department of Social Protection (DSP) will treat income from the scheme as income from self-employment for the purpose of its various means tests. This means that where a scheme includes a disregard of a certain amount of income from self-employment, that disregard will be applied to income from the basic income pilot. It should be noted that not all means-tested schemes include disregards for income from self-employment. The extent to which this income will have an impact on a person's DSP payment will depend on the means test for that scheme and the person's individual circumstances (in particular whether the person and/or their spouse/partner has other means).
- **Applicants are strongly advised to investigate what their own particular tax and social welfare situation may be should they receive payment. Those in receipt of a social welfare payment who receive payments from the pilot scheme should advise the Department of Social protection of this change in their circumstances.**