

Expressions of interest

DLR Drug and Alcohol Task Force (DATF) has responsibility to make recommendations, on an annual basis, to funding bodies on the allocation of a global fund assigned through the HSE and Department of Health. This funding, under the Drugs Initiative, is separate to the direct funding of services through the HSE (Addiction Services) and the ETB (UBU).

Following a review in 2015, the DATF adopted a multi-annual strategic approach to these recommendations with a focus on the following:

1. The provision of services to adults utilising key-worker methods of engagement, support and intervention.
2. Services to families where parental substance misuse was having adverse effects on children.
3. Youth intervention service.
4. Development work, such as training, research and inter-agency networking.

Items 1-3 above involve funding recommendations with respect external bodies, while item 4 is undertaken primarily by the DATF itself.

The DATF is currently preparing a new Strategic Plan for the period 2022-25. While it does not envisage a major change in its priority targets, it is obviously keen to review approaches to how this work is undertaken, particularly taking into account emerging needs and the impact of COVID. It is expected however that supported work (items 1-3 above) will in the main involve direct one-to-one services to respective target groups.

The DATF has recently engaged in a consultation process, and although the report on this process is yet to be finalised, the Task Force is conscious that:

1. Reports of increased normalisation of youth drug use suggests the need for increased outreach into community settings, with a mix of universal and targeted prevention strategies.
2. The impact of drug and alcohol misuse on families and communities has led to hidden and other harms, particularly arising from COVID and suggesting the need for sensitive and proactive approaches to harm reduction and supports to families and communities
3. The need for improved communication between the range of health and other services and for improved interagency practices to support service users.

Taking all of the above into account the DATF is seeking an Expression of Interest from interested bodies who wish to be considered in the next round of multi-annual funding recommendations, 2022-25.

The four main requirements for submitting an expression of interest are:

1. DLR Base: A DLR base means that the organisation is either based in DLR or has had a substantial presence as a relevant service provider for at least five years, i.e. 2017-21 (inclusive).
2. Relevant service experience: must involve formal, individually-tailored interventions to individuals presenting (or referred as appropriate) with an issue or problem arising from addiction/substance misuse – either their own or that of a family member or carer.
3. Use of NDTRS: those expressing an interest will need to confirm that they currently use NDTRS and/or have training with HRB for uploading data from (2) above onto the NDTRS system.

4. Contract: bodies must have a service contract with existing, relevant statutory body, such as HSE, ETB or Tusla, for service provision as per (1) above.

At this stage we are seeking only an expression of interest. At a later stage suitable bodies, who fulfil these four requirements, will be invited to submit a proposal in response to a more detailed specification.

If your organisation wishes to express interest please do so by sending an email to info@dlrdatf.ie by COB, Friday July 23 stating (1) the organisation's interest and (2) confirmation that the organisation meets the four requirements as specified.