



**Clare Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) & Novas are seeking applications for the following piece of work:**

***An assessment of family wellbeing for families accessing  
Homeless Services in Co. Clare:  
Pre and post a Strengthening Families Programme  
intervention***

**Children and Young People's Services Committees:**

CYPSC are county-level committees that bring together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services to children and young people.

They provide a forum for joint planning and co-ordination of activity to ensure that children, young people and their families receive improved and accessible services. Their role is to enhance interagency co-operation and to realise the national outcomes set out in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014 - 2020*.

**Healthy Ireland Fund 2012 - 2025:**

*Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025* is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. The primary aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health.

The fund is administered locally through Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) and the Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC)

**Project background**

*"Wellbeing also reflects the concept of positive mental health, in which a person can realise his or her own abilities, cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and be able*

*to make a contribution to his or her community. Consideration of health and wellbeing requires a shift in focus from what can go wrong in people's lives" – Healthy Ireland Framework*

Better Outcomes Brighter Futures states that "26% of the homeless population in 2011 were under 25 years. Of the 980 under 25 who were homeless, 20% (199) were between the ages of 0-4".

*"The lifelong negative consequences for a child if his or her family is homeless or in substandard or unstable housing or accommodation, and the need for affordable, good quality housing for all children and young people" Pg 91*

"No Place Like Home" report offered a valuable and insightful contribution to the debate on responding to the needs of families who are homeless. In particular, the voices of children are an important contribution to our collective understanding of the impact of family homelessness. Supported by Healthy Ireland and the Clare CYPSC, Novas are coordinating the delivery of a Strengthening Families intervention for a number of families accessing homeless services across Co. Clare <http://sfpcouncilireland.ie/strengthening-families/>

The objective of the project is to assess whether this style of intervention promotes family well-being for families accessing homeless services as well as mental well-being for both parents and their children.

#### **Applicant(s) Proposals:**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention, Novas are seeking suitably qualified applicants who will liaise with the families **in advance of the Strengthening Families intervention** and conduct a family wellness assessment with the families. Such an assessment should consider the following factors:

##### Pre & Post Intervention Assessment Sample Questions

1. How parents rate their coping skills and parenting capacity given their living environment?
2. How young people rate their wellbeing given their living environment?
3. What challenges do parents feel they face currently and how are they managing these challenges?
4. What challenges are young people facing currently and how are they managing these challenges?
5. An assessment of parent and child stress/happiness using a verified scoring tool i.e. SDQ, PSS ( Perceived Stress Scale) etc
6. Other factors that may impact of family wellness

It is envisaged that both parents and children will be included in the assessment process, therefore applicants should have experience of in engaging with both parents and children.

Given current Covid-19 restrictions, assessments with families will have to be conducted via phone, survey, secure online platforms i.e. Zoom etc. Twelve families will be invited by Novas to participate in the assessment process and these families will also be invited to participate in the Strengthening Families Programme afterwards.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a proposal with the above factors taken into consideration, as to how they would conduct such assessments and provide the commissioning body with a report at the end of the process.

A follow up assessment will also take place with all families **after** they have finished the 16 week Strengthening Families Programme. The proposal should outline **both** phases: pre and post intervention family assessments.

**Provisional timeframe:**

- Pre-intervention family assessments carried out ( November –December 2020 )
- Pre- assessment report due by **29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**
- 16 week Strengthening Families Intervention ( provisional dates 25<sup>th</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> May )
- Post-intervention family assessment carried out ( May – June ) with families that completed the 16 week intervention
- Post-assessment report due by **25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Engagement:**

Novas will administer the funding to the successful applicant who should be able to proceed on a self-employed/consultancy basis. The successful applicant will report to a working group. Day to day management and support will be provided by nominated members of the working group.

**Proposals should provide the following information:**

- A full outline of the pre and post assessment process as well as creative engagement methods employed, particularly with children in mind i.e. creative consultation techniques such as using the arts etc.
- evidence of prior experience in this area in particular evidence of carrying out assessments with parents and young people with examples provided.
- a full breakdown of costs including number of days, daily rate, VAT, etc.

**Additional documentation:**

- TCAN
- Insurance Details
- A sample of or link to samples of previous work.
- Details of at least two relevant references, including the name, address and telephone number of the organisation for which this work was carried out, including a specific contact person in each case. Contact may be made with these referees as part of the assessment of tender process.

**Financial Information:**

The budget should not exceed €12,000 inc. VAT

Additional costs outside of the quote for the work will be the responsibility of the successful applicant unless agreed in writing with the Clare CYPSC and Novas.

A payment schedule will be arranged with the successful applicant.

**Application and Deadline for Submission:**

Proposals are invited via email from organisations, institutions or individual researchers with experience of carrying out similar work. Please email a copy of your tender and any accompanying documents to: [Una.Burns@novas.ie](mailto:Una.Burns@novas.ie)

***Please put "Assessment of Family Wellbeing" in the subject line.***

***Final date for submission of proposals is: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 5pm***

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Sinéad Collopy, Clare CYPSC Coordinator (087) 6534430 or  
Una Burns (083) 1083726