

20/05/2020

**Re: FAR training and the Covid-19 restrictions**

Dear Childminder,

As you may be aware and following our recent updates, Tusla have announced an extension to the timeframe for the implementation of the regulatory requirement to have at least one FAR trained member of staff available at all times. The DCYA had committed to providing a subsidy for the training of one staff member, per childcare service. This was supposed to have finished by the original deadline of 1 June 2020. In light of Tusla's announcement, the DCYA are extending the subsidy eligibility to the end of 2020.

**Online training:**

Owing to the current Covid-19 restrictions, PHECC have agreed that the theory part of the FAR training course can be delivered as an online component. PHECC have stipulated that the online theory training will be:

- For the short term only and will be limited to the duration of the current Covid-19 situation.
- Does not replace the whole course, is for FAR theory only.
- Full certification cannot come from this part of the training.
- Practicals and assessment should be on hold until the current Covid-19 situation is over.
- The online session must be live and the trainer must ensure that they can document that participants engaged fully.
- There will be a limit of participants to 8 as in the face-to-face course

Such a significant departure from normal standards shall be limited to the duration of the current Covid-19 crisis.

**Things to consider**

**Before undertaking online FAR theory training Childcare Providers should ensure the following:**

- **That the training is being offered by a PHECC Approved Training Institution listed [here](#).**
- **That the company offering the online training can provide an interim certificate/letter as proof of completion of online theory training**

- **That the company you choose to do the online training with will also be able to offer the practical part of the course as well as the assessment in a place and at a time that will suit you**

There is **no obligation** to undertake online training, services can opt to wait until the face-to-face courses are being offered and undertake the training in the normal way. However, the subsidy will only be available until the end of 2020 (see payment schedule on application form).

**Claiming the partial subsidy:**

On completion of the online theory training, services can apply for a maximum of €150 which represents 2/3 of the total subsidy or 2/3 of what you paid for the course, whichever is the lesser by completing Roscommon CCCs application form and submitting along with a receipt and a certificate/letter confirming that the participant has undertaken the full online theory course. On completion of the practical part of the course, the provider can apply for the remaining €75 by submitting the application form, along with their certificate.

<b>Application closing date (for payment in that quarter)</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
<b>Payment dates</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Please note there will be no extension to the DCYA support funding beyond December 2020**

If you have any further queries please contact Martina Towey on 0949622540 or email [admin@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:admin@roscommonchildcare.ie) or contact your Roscommon CCC development officer.

In the meantime our team are available for support and we wish you all remain safe in these challenging times.

Kind Regards  
*Irene Cafferky*  
 County Childcare Coordinator/Manager

