

South Dublin County Council Caravan Loan Scheme for Travellers for the Purchase of a Mobile/Trailer 2025

What is this loan for?

This loan is for the purchase of a residential mobile/trailer for a Traveller family.

Who can apply?

Travellers residing in halting sites in South Dublin County Council's administrative area.

How do I apply?

- Return attached application to Traveller Unit, South Dublin County Council. If you have any questions or would like support filling in your application please contact the Traveller Unit by phone at 01 4149363 or email htravellers@sdblincoco.ie . Applications need to be returned by **Friday 28th February 2025 @ 12 noon.**
- You may be contacted by the Council to discuss your application, and you may be asked to come into the office for a meeting to discuss your application.

What do I need before I apply?

- You must be a tenant of your local authority or on the local authority waiting list.
- You must have expressed a preference for Traveller-specific accommodation (a halting site bay).
- You must have a deposit of €500.
- You must have proof of income.
- You must have an An Post account or bank account.
- You must have a suitable place to site your mobile/trailer with the permission of the local authority.

I don't have €500 for a deposit, what are my options?

- If you have €500, it will be taken away from your total loan amount (e.g., €40,000 - €500 = €39,500). If you don't have €500 you will pay the full loan amount instead (e.g., €40,000).
- Please call the office to discuss.

What else should I do before I apply?

You are strongly advised to discuss your financial situation with National Traveller MABS (Money and Budgeting Service). NTMABS /local MABS will talk you through the application, help you to work out how much you can afford to borrow and repay, and give you advice on your best options. NTMABS will also talk to you about the penalties and consequences of defaulting on the loan agreement

How much is the loan for?

The value of the loan will be determined by family need and overall budgetary restrictions.

Quotations

It is the responsibility of the borrower to provide three mobile home quotations from registered suppliers.

How will the loan repayment be calculated?

- In order to ensure affordability, the weekly loan repayment amount will be calculated at a preferential rate based on the price of the mobile/trailer and the income of the household using the following formula:

WEEKLY DIFFERENTIAL RENT x AMOUNT OF LOAN

DENOMINATOR: €60,000

- A €60,000 denominator is used because it is the average cost to a local authority to house a family in standard social housing for ten years.
- The term of the loan is capped at the estimated lifespan of the unit being purchased. The lifespan of the mobile/trailer will be agreed between the Local Authority and the borrower.

Examples of calculated repayments:

Basis of assessment	Differential Rent*	Loan Amount (Mobile/Trailer Value)	Rent x Loan amount /60,000	Weekly Loan repayment (rounding up)	Expected lifespan of mobile	Number of repayments (lifespan x 52**)	Amount repaid over lifetime of loan***
Couple, 2 Dependent Children	€40.57	€50,000	€27.00	€27	8 years	416	€14,064.27
Couple, 2 Dependent Children	€40.27	€60,000	€33.81	€33	10	520	€21,096.40
Couple, 2 Dependent Children	€40.57	€80,000	€54.09	€54	14	728	€39,379.95

* South Dublin County Council rates

** Borrower to pay €500 of the purchase price

*** The remaining outstanding loan value is written off at the end of the loan period. The borrower is no longer liable for this amount and owns the equity in the caravan

A minimum repayment of €20 per week will be fixed for the period of the loan

What do I do if my application is not successful?

If your application for a loan is not successful, you can make an appeal to the local authority for a review of the decision. The review will be conducted by a more senior local authority official who was not involved in the original decision.

The Mobile/Trailer

Who buys/owns the mobile/trailer?

- If your application is successful, you will buy the mobile/trailer yourself from a vendor that has been approved by the local authority.
- If you choose to use a supplier outside of the Republic of Ireland the amount of the loan advanced must include the VAT payments to the Irish Revenue.(This will reduce the value for money on the loan advanced)
- You will be the owner of the mobile/trailer.

Who installs the mobile/trailer?

- The local authority will arrange and pay for the home to be attached to services and utilities i.e., plumbing, but only on local authority approved or owned sites.

Who maintains the mobile/trailer?

- The borrower is responsible for ensuring that the unit is up to standard.
- The borrower is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the unit.

I have an old mobile/trailer. Who is responsible for its removal and disposal?

- The local authority will arrange and pay for the home to be removed.
- Your old mobile must be emptied of furniture and property before this is done.

Do I have to provide insurance?

- As the owner of the new trailer, you must pay to have it insured.
- Irish Traveller Movement or National Traveller MABS can help you find suitable insurance for your home.

Repaying the Loan

How do I repay the loan?

- If you are in receipt of a social welfare payment, your loan repayment can be made at the post office.
- If you have a bank account, your loan payment can be deducted by direct debit.
- Your local authority may issue you with a loan card to make repayments.
- Your local authority may have other options open to you. Please contact the office.

What happens when I am finished repaying the loan?

- When you finish repaying your loan, the mobile/trailer is your property to live in, sell or replace if you wish.
- You are free to apply for another loan to buy a newer mobile/trailer subject to the conditions of the scheme, once you have finished repaying your existing loan.

Can I sell the mobile/trailer before my loan is repaid?

- You can sell the mobile/trailer, but you must still pay the full amount owed on the loan before you do.
- You may not be eligible for a further caravan loan. Please contact the local authority if you intend selling the mobile/trailer.

What happens if I don't repay the loan?

- In the event of a breach of the agreement, the borrower will have to pay the full amount of the loan as a simple contract debt (rather than at preferential rates) and the borrower will be ineligible for further loans. The local authority will take appropriate steps to recover the outstanding loan.
- Loan defaults (not repaying or only partially repaying loans) can have a serious impact on your ability to apply for future loans or other types of credit.
- It is recommended that you talk to NTMABS / local MABS before you agree to the terms of the loan.
- If you encounter difficulties in repaying you should contact the local authority immediately.
- If you withdraw from repayments before the loan is repaid, ownership of the mobile/trailer will revert to the local authority and you may be asked to vacate/return the property.

If at the end of the loan period the value of the mobile is greater than the loan amount I have repaid, am I liable for the difference?

No. You own any remaining equity in the caravan/trailer at the end of the loan period on condition that all repayments which were due have been paid. The value of the mobile/trailer at the end of the loan period is not relevant. It is in your interest therefore to maintain and care for the mobile/trailer as much as possible.

***Please note the Council do not provide ramps, steps, or decks.**

***Please note there is limited funds available for this scheme. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the criteria of the National Caravan Loan Scheme. The value of the loan will be determined by family need and overall budgetary restrictions**

***Please note that the housing need of an applicant who avails of the Caravan Loan Scheme will be deemed to have been met and therefore will no longer be included on the Social Housing Waiting List but can be included on the transfer list in the normal manner.**

If you require any further information or wish to discuss with a member of the South Dublin County Council Traveller Accommodation Unit, please contact a member of the team on 01 414 9363.

Application forms are available from:

Traveller Accommodation Unit,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Contact number: 01 414 9363

Email: htravellers@sdublincoco.ie