Project grant aid

The table below sets out the maximum LEADER grant aid that may be awarded for various project types. (Offaly)

Type of Project	Applicant	Maximum Rate of Aid	Maxi-mum Funding
Community Projects not involving Economic Activity	Community	Up to 75%	€500,000
Community Projects involving Economic Activity	Community	Up to 75%	€200,000
Investment & other sup-ports (including promotion undertaken as part of the implementa-tion of a pro-ject)	Private	Up to 50%	€200,000
	Community	Up to 75%	
	Community under acces-sible services sub-theme targeted at hard to reach communities	Up to 75%	
Analysis and Development	Private	Up to 75%	€30,000
	Community	Up to 90%	
Training	Private or Community	Up to 100%	€200,000

LEADER website

All information pertaining to LEADER is available online:

www.gov.ie/LEADER

LEADER funding checklist for promoters

Throughout the application process, project promoters must:

- ✓ adhere to the EU Regulations, 2023-2027 LEADER Operating Rules, and Local Development Strategy
- ✓ ensure compliance with all statutory requirements, e.g. procurement rules, local planning regulations, etc.
- ✓ inform the LAG of any unforeseen changes that arise with the approved project
- ✓ comply with information and publicity requirements for LEADER funded projects
- ✓ retain and provide all necessary documentation for inspections and/or audit purposes
- ✓ operate as funded for five years from the date of final LEADER grant payment

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Millennium House, Main St. Tullamore, Co Offaly
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P: 057 9322850

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland
Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040
Arna chomhchistiú ag an Roinn Forbatha Tuaithe agus Pobail Co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development
Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe Our Rural Future
Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach Co-funded by the European Union

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

Information leaflet

About LEADER

LEADER is a community-led approach to local development funded through Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027. It has been operating in Ireland since its commencement in 1991 and has evolved through five successive programming periods to become a key intervention within EU rural development policy.

LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve the quality of life and economic activity in rural areas. It is delivered by a network of Local Action Groups (LAGs) selected to implement Local Development Strategies (LDSs or Strategies) for their respective geographical areas.

LEADER themes and sub-themes

The LEADER programme accepts applications based on projects which improve:

Theme 1 - Economic Development and Job Creation
- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification
- Rural Tourism & Recreation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Social, Community & Cooperative Enterprises

Theme 2 - Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion
- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

Theme 3 - Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Areas eligible for LEADER funding

For the purposes of the LEADER programme in Ireland, rural areas are defined as all parts of Ireland with the exception of the areas within the boundaries of the five main cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway.

Local Action Groups (LAGs)

LAGs are the key body in the "bottom-up" LEADER delivery model with each group responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects within their geographical area.

Typically, a LAG is made up of public and private partners, including: local authority elected members and officials, business representatives, representatives from the community and voluntary sector, local development representatives, farming interests, local state agencies, etc.

Local Development Strategy (LDS)

The LDS is a plan designed by members of rural communities, through their LAG, to support the sustainable development of their own rural communities.

Project eligibility

In order for a project to be eligible for LEADER funding, it must be compatible with the actions outlined in the approved LDS in the geographical area concerned, and it must comply with the EU Regulations and Operating Rules in place for the programme.

Details of ineligible sectors and activities are listed in the 2023-2027 LEADER Operating Rules, which are available on the LEADER website: www.gov.ie/LEADER.

Project promoter eligibility

A project promoter can be an individual, group or other body (e.g. company) that submits a funding application to the LAG and, where successful, is given a contract to deliver the approved project.

The project promoter must be able to demonstrate that they can provide matching contributions to meet the full costs of the project and ensure that they will be operational as funded for five years from the date of final LEADER grant payment.

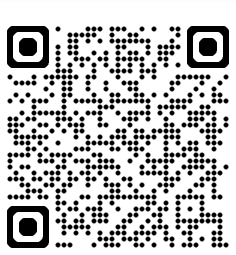
How to apply for LEADER funding

Prospective applicants should contact their LAG through its Implementing Partner (where applicable) to register an expression of interest and discuss the eligibility of a project proposal and the funding that may be available.

Expression of Interest (EoI) forms can be obtained from your local LAG.

Contact your local LAG

The list of all LAGs, their Implementing Partners and contact details, is available on the Department's website:



LEADER

Development led by local communities