



LEADER TRANSITIONAL FUNDING PROGRAMME

LEADER is an EU and Exchequer funded programme which supports the development of rural areas, businesses and communities. The focus of this transitional programme includes post COVID recovery, enterprise, heritage, culture, tourism, food, social inclusion, climate change, local area development etc. Farmers seeking to diversify, individuals, businesses, social enterprises and community / voluntary groups can all apply for LEADER funding.



New Inn Community signing LEADER contract for the refurbishment of their Community Centre



LEADER AND STDC

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

LEADER offers grant aid for capital projects (construction, equipment etc), analysis and development (research or feasibility studies or plans), or training for groups.

If you have an idea which will enhance your business, community or the environment, the South Tipperary Development Team can help you to see if it is eligible for LEADER funding.

Grant amounts range from €5,000 to €200,000. The maximum amount for an analysis and development project is €30,000

Project Type	Promoter Type	Max Grant Rate
Capital	All	75%
Analysis and Development	For Profit	75%
	Non Profit	90%
Training	All	100%

In some cases, organisations seeking support (promoters) may be able to match a LEADER grant with other public grants such as those from the County Council etc.

FUNDING THEMES

LEADER projects are funded under 3 specific themes; described below



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

This theme supports traditional and social enterprises, rural tourism, revitalisation of rural towns and villages and promoting the digital economy including remote working. Examples of projects include buildings or equipment for businesses or community facilities, initiatives which make areas better places to live, work and visit.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

This theme addresses infrastructure and basic services for those who may experience exclusion. These can include people living in poverty and/ or isolation, those with a disability, disadvantaged communities and groups. Projects supporting rural youth are particularly welcome. Projects can involve training and development for groups, or the development of specific services or facilities.



RURAL ENVIRONMENT

These projects focus on protecting or enhancing our environment, and meeting the challenges of climate change. Examples of possible renewable energy projects include insulating buildings and installing solar panels or heat pumps, community power etc. In terms of safeguarding our water resources and promoting biodiversity, projects could include wildlife studies, training / awareness raising, informational signage, restoration of habitats, community gardens / nature walks etc. This theme also supports the circular economy concept which reduces waste and increases reuse, repurposing, repair and recycling of materials.



Contact STDC on 052 7442652 email rdp@stdc.ie



APPLYING FOR LEADER FUNDING

SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

LEADER funding is governed by EU rules on what types of projects are eligible and sets strict criteria for approval. STDC project staff are on hand to assist you to develop your project and to guide you through the application process. We suggest that your first step is to contact us for an informal discussion.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

All applicants must submit a detailed application form, with supporting documentation. After an application is submitted, it is assessed by an Independent Evaluation Committee and by the Tipperary Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and finally by the Dept of Rural and Community Development. This ensures that the project fits with the priorities of the LEADER Programme. The time from submitting an application to signing of contracts can be 3-6 months. No project works can start before the contract is signed. Therefore we recommend that promoters talk to us in plenty of time.



Michael Hogan
Bloody Sunday
Memorial

Grangemockler

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED

Every project differs, but in general you would need details about who is applying for funding, including accounts, tax clearance, track record and any development plans you may have etc.

- Detailed specification of the work to be carried out
- Quotations for the work which must be obtained in line with specific public procurement guidelines to ensure value for money.
- Details of how you will fund the project and cover the non grant aided portion. Note LEADER funding is paid in arrears, so you need to be able to pay your suppliers in full and then claim back from us. Stage payments are possible for larger projects.
- Full Planning Permission from Tipperary County Council (where applicable)
- Evidence of ownership or lease for a property which is being developed (where applicable).

STDC can accept project applications at any time. However, the budget is limited, and so we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible to discuss a potential application

Email STDC Project Development Officers at marybarry@stdc.ie, sarabourke@stdc.ie.



Solohead GAA Community Walking Track

Contact STDC on 052 7442652 email rdp@stdc.ie



BACKGROUND TO THE LEADER PROGRAMME

LEADER (also known as Rural Development Programme RDP) is a part of the Common Agricultural Programme (CAP), which focusses on improving economic activity and the quality of life in rural areas, including towns and villages.

The LEADER programme is administered at a local level by 29 local action groups, which contain local representatives from the community, public and private sector. Each group is responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects within their geographical area.

In Tipperary, the programme is administered by the Local Community Development Committee, supported by Tipperary County Council. On the ground implementation is by South and North Tipperary Development Companies. The last LEADER programme ran from 2014-2020, and the new one will start with the new CAP in 2022. In Spring 2021, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced a new Transitional Programme which will bridge the gap.

The priorities of the transitional programme are:

- Supports to rural businesses seeking to reach new markets, expand, innovate and/or diversify in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or Brexit. The LEADER Food Initiative directly supports local small and / or artisan food producers.
- Community based projects that seek to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supports and capacity building for communities that have not recently received assistance under LEADER or other rural programmes, engaging directly with new applicants to develop projects and enhance collaboration within communities.
- Support for innovative projects in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and the green and circular economy.
- Maximising the potential of broadband and the digital economy in communities, including skills development, building awareness and usage of available remote working facilities.
- Projects that develop the SMART Village concept or Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs) which could lead to more substantial proposals for the next LEADER Programme.



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