

Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2025

NOTE: Closing Date: 4.00pm Friday, 7th February, 2025



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received:

Reference Number:

LCDC recommendation:

GROUP /ORGANISATION NAME

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO:

**Laois Local Community Development Committee,
Community Section, Laois County Council,
Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise, Co Laois R32 EHP9**

Or email LEP@laoiscoco.ie

By 4.00pm, Friday, 7th February 2025

CLOSING DATE & TIME WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

Please read and make yourself familiar with the Application Guidelines for the ‘Local Enhancement Programme 2025’ before completing this form.

Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2025 Capital Funding

The Department of Rural and Community Development (“the Department”) funds the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) which provides funding to support community groups across Ireland.

The Local Enhancement Programme 2025 will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and to purchase equipment for example tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc. Facilities improvement works may also include, but are not limited to; improved access for persons with a disability; enhancing community participation for disadvantaged and marginalised groups, and; improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, so as to improve and enhance community facilities for all. It is administered by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area.

Applications should relate to one or more key priority areas identified in their LCDC’s Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in order to be eligible for consideration.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The Local Enhancement Programme will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and purchase equipment.
- This is the **capital** element of the funding scheme.
- The activity or project must benefit the local community and relate to the key priority areas identified in the LECP.
- The information supplied by the applicant group /organisation must be accurate and complete.
- Inaccurate or incomplete information may lead to disqualification and/or the repayment of any grant made.
- All information provided in respect of the application for a grant will be held electronically. The Department reserves the right to publish a list of all grants awarded on its website.
- The Freedom of Information Act applies to all records held by the Department and Local Authorities, including applications received and any additional correspondence related to the application.
- The application must be signed by the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer of the organisation making the application.
- It is the responsibility of each organisation to ensure that it has proper procedures and policies in place, including appropriate insurance, where relevant.
- Evidence of expenditure, receipts /invoices must be retained and provided to the LCDC, the Department of Rural and Community Development, the relevant local authority or any agent acting on their behalf if requested.
- Grant monies must be expended and drawn down from the LCDC by 31st December 2025. Photographic evidence may be required to facilitate draw down of grants.

- The Department of Rural and Community Development's contribution must be publicly acknowledged in all materials associated with the purpose of the grant, including signage.
- Generally, no third party or intermediary applications will be considered.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Applications by post should use the correct value of postage stamps and allow sufficient time to ensure delivery not later than the closing date of **4:00pm on Friday, 7th February, 2025** Claims that any application form has been lost or delayed in the post will not be considered, unless applicants have a Post Office Certificate of Posting in support of such claims.
- Breaches of the terms and conditions of the grants scheme may result in sanctions including disbarment from future grant applications.
- Please ensure the application form is completed in full. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.
- In order to process your application, it may be necessary for Laois County Council to collect personal data from you. Such information will be processed in line with the Local Authority's privacy statement which is available to view on www.laois.ie [Privacy Notice LEP.pdf](#)

All questions on this form must be answered. Please write your answers clearly in block letters.

SECTION 1 – YOUR ORGANISATION

Name of Group / Organisation	
Tax Reference Number (necessary for payment purposes)	
Address	
Eircode	
Municipal District	Borris in Ossory/Mountmellick <input type="checkbox"/> Graiguecullen/ Portarlinton <input type="checkbox"/> Portlaoise <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact name	
Role in Group/Organisation	
Telephone number	
E-mail	
Website	
Alternative Contact name	
Alternative Telephone number	
Alternative E-mail	

Please provide a brief organisational description of your group / organisation e.g. committee structure, meeting schedule, existence of memo and arts documents, registration with Company Registration Office, the Charities Regulator etc.

Has your Organisation / Group registered with the relevant local Public Participation Network (PPN)?

YES **NO** If yes, supply your registration no

If **NO**, please consider registering with the relevant PPN.

Year group/organisation established	
What is the purpose of group / organisation	

Successful applications for funding under this programme will only be paid to the applicant organisation's Bank Account. Please ensure you have your Bank Account details to hand if your application is successful.

Have you received funding under any **capital/current** grants schemes from 2018 to current date- i.e. grants from Government Departments, Local Authority or LEADER for example.?

YES NO

If **YES**, please give details below:

Name of scheme	Funding organisation	Works / Purchases Funded	Amount received	Date received

If any of the above funding was paid through the Local Authority, have you submitted your Bank Account Details previously?

YES NO

Do you receive funding from any other organisation?

YES NO

If **YES**, please give details below:

Funding organisation	Purpose of Funding	Amount received	Date received

Is your organisation affiliated or connected to any relevant local regional or national body?

YES

NO

If **YES**, please give details below:

Name of organisation(s):

How does your organisation link in with other organisations in your area?

Charitable Status Number (if applicable)	
--	--

Tax Reference Number (if applicable) (this is not required to make an application, but it will be necessary if you are successful, for payment purposes)	
---	--

Tax Clearance Access Number (if applicable)	
---	--

SECTION 2 – Project Details

How much funding are you applying for? Tick one of the below options.

- Grant of €1,000 or less
- Grant in excess of €1,000

PURPOSE OF GRANT

What will the funding be used for? (input answer below)

Note: This list is not exhaustive, but gives examples of types of expenditure that may be eligible

- IT Equipment
- Safety Equipment
- Machinery
- Renovation of building/premises
- Maintenance of building/premises
- Other (Give details)
- General Equipment
- Construction Works
- Training Equipment
- Sports Equipment
- Energy efficient upgrade
- Development of community facilities
- Improved access for persons with a disability

What is the purpose of the grant? (Outline details of the project).

Please input exact location (X-Y co-ordinates) of where the proposed project will be based.
***Please note this is a mandatory field.**

This information is required in **ITM format**. The simple guide we have provided with this form will show you how to find these on <https://irish.gridreferencefinder.com/>

If this is for a specific project, when will your project begin?

If this is for a specific project, when will your project be completed?

Are all relevant permissions in place (e.g. planning permission, written consent from landowner/property owner if your project involves the development of a property)?

Not applicable **YES** **NO**

Is this part of a phased development and/or linked with (or funded by) other schemes operated by Government Departments or the Local Authority?

YES **NO**

If YES to previous question, please provide the details below:

FUNDING

Please provide details for all sections i.e., A, B, C and D below.

A. Amount being applied for under the LEP for Equipment, upgrade of facilities. **(A)**

B. Is this amount a partial or total project cost? Partial Total

C. If partial, give the estimated total project cost **(C)**

D. Please include supporting documentation outlined below for your project. The Local Authority may also request specific documentation to support the application e.g. Bank statement to confirm available funds.

All applications must include quotations from a minimum of three different independent suppliers for each item that requires funding under LEP. Please contact LEP@laoiscoco.ie or call 057-8664227 for information on the required supporting documentation.

To be eligible for funding under this programme you must state where you will source any shortfall of funding. Please provide these details below.

Source	Amount

Please state how your group proposes to publicly acknowledge the Department of Rural and Community Development

The LCDC will check to ensure that this application works towards addressing priorities within its Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which you can access on your local authorities' website. **If your application is for an amount greater than €1,000**, please complete the below table to state which key priority area(s) in the LECP this grant application relates to and the estimated number of people to benefit.

If your application is for a small scale capital grant of €1,000 or less, then you may wish to complete the below table, but you are not required to do so.

Key priority area of LECP	No. of beneficiaries

SECTION 3 - DECLARATION

- I declare that the information given on this form is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I confirm I have read and fully understand the Terms and Conditions of the 'Local Enhancement Programme 2025' (see page 2 of this form).
- I confirm that I have read the Application Guidelines for the 'Local Enhancement Programme 2025' prior to completing this form.
- I confirm that this grant application is submitted in acceptance of and compliance with the Terms and Conditions.
- I confirm that the applicant group/organisation does not have the funding to undertake the work/project without this grant aid or alternatively that the grant will facilitate a larger project which they would otherwise be unable to afford.
- I confirm that the applicant group/organisation is tax compliant (if tax registered).

Name in block capitals (on behalf of group / organisation):	
Signature:	
Position held in group / organisation (block capitals):	
Date:	