

Department of Rural & Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1. What is the Local Enhancement Programme?

A. The ***Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme 2025*** will provide capital and or current funding to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops, printers and lawnmowers etc. The Scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, as to improve and enhance community facilities for all.

Q2. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

A. Applications for funding are invited from not for profit Community/Voluntary/Groups/Committees/Clubs within Co Roscommon.

Q3. Who is not eligible to apply?

Commercial organisations and individuals.

Q4. Can groups apply for funding under both capital and current funding streams?

A. Yes, groups will be entitled to apply under both the capital and current funding streams.

Q5. What projects are eligible for funding?

A. Groups will be able to use the **capital element of funding** to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

Groups will be able to use the **current element of funding** to support their non-pay running costs for example energy costs/bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges), rental/lease costs and insurance bills (**costs incurred in the period 1st June 2024 to 30th May 2025 will only be considered**)

Q6. What expenditure is not eligible for funding?

A. Any project not in keeping with the ethos of the Programme
Employment costs
Legal fees
Project management costs
Purchase of lands or buildings
Feasibility studies
Costs which are being paid for by another funder or department

Q7. Can Men and Women's Sheds/Groups apply for the funding?

A. Yes, they can apply for both capital and current funding.

Q8. Do I need to be a member of the Public Partnership Network? (PPN)

A. Yes, there is a link available on the online application form to register.

Q9 Will I be approved for all of the funding I request?

A. **Capital Funding** - All applications will be evaluated by an independent evaluation committee. This is a competitive process and not all eligible applications will be funded.

Current Funding – Applications will be assessed for eligibility and we envisage to support all groups.

Q10. Can groups spend monies prior to approval from LCDC?

A. Groups are **not permitted** to spend monies prior to approval. They must receive approval notification from the LCDC.

Q11. Can groups request to change elements of their project after letter of offer is issued?

A. Yes, groups can contact the LEP team to discuss their revised changes. Groups must receive approval from the LCDC in advance of works taking place.

Q12. Is the funding provided under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) eligible as co-funding or match funding for other schemes or programmes e.g. LEADER?

A. Yes. The LEP is 100% exchequer funded and can be used in conjunction with other grants. It is the responsibility of the grant applicant to ensure that using this Programme to co-fund a project does not contradict the rules of the other scheme/programme. **Please ensure that applicants consult with the administrators or body responsible for any other funding scheme or programme in this regard.**

Q13. Steps on how do I apply for funding?

A. Firstly, please ensure the group is a **registered user with “My Online Services”** before applying for the scheme.

Please click on the following link to guide you how to become a registered user

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msHu61rb81Q>

Applications must be submitted for the LEP through Roscommon County Councils “My Online Services” at <https://Roscommon-self.achieveservice.com>

Q14. Who do I contact if I have issues registering my account?

A. Please email myonlineservices@roscommoncoco.ie

Q15. Can I save my application and complete it a later stage?

A. Yes, you can retrieve your application via your **email or logging** onto “My Online Services” and click on “My **Request button**”. Your application will be available to complete.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU RETRIEVE YOUR SAVED APPLICATION. DO NOT START A NEW APPLICATION AGAIN.

Q16. How many quotations do I require?

A. **Purchase of goods/services**, a project cost up to €5,000 please upload **one** quotation. For projects costing between €5,001 - €50,000 a minimum of **three quotations** is required from **reputable suppliers**.

Construction works, a project cost up to €10,000, **one quotation** is required. For projects costing between €10,001 – €50,000 please upload a minimum of **three quotations**. This relates to the overall cost of the project and not just the amount sought under this funding scheme.

Q17. How do we know the application is submitted?

- A. When you complete your application form, click the **SUBMIT button** on the final page. You will receive an email notification stating you have successfully submitted your application form with a **reference number**. Please contact myonlineservices@roscommoncoco.ie if you do not receive same.

Q18. Do we need to upload all the requested documentation?

- A. Yes, if you omit the documentation, your application will be deemed invalid.

Q19. What is the closing date for applications?

- A. Closing date **2nd of February, 2025**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Q20. What happens next after I submit my application?

- A. You may be asked to submit further information, please monitor your email account closely.

Q21. When will we receive notification if my application is successful?

- A. Notification will issue to groups in May 2025.

Q22. How do we accept the offer of funding?

- A. When you receive your letter of offer via email, there will be clear instructions on how to accept the offer. You will only have a short window to accept the offer.

Q23. If my group cannot proceed with the project after accepting the offer, what do we do?

- A. Please notify the LEP team immediately, lep2025@roscommoncoco.ie