

SICAP

Grants to Local Community Groups and Networks

Grant Rules for LCGs and Networks

Grants can be given to LCGs and Networks under Goal 1. PIs should have an agreed process in place for reviewing and approving grants to LCGs and Networks.

The LCDC's role is to review the overall grant allocations to ensure allocations do not exceed the maximum budget amount or other rules as outlined below. LCDCs do not review or approve individual or Network **LCG grants**.

The following rules apply:

- The purpose of the grant must be in line with the objectives of the programme and there must be a clear outcome in line with SICAP objectives;
- The maximum grant for LCGs and Networks is €2,500 per annum. As the amount is being paid as a grant, no VAT arises for the PI, so the VAT inclusive and exclusive amount is the same;
- One grant per LCG/Network per year;
- Grants should not duplicate other sources of local funding by funding the same costs, e.g. from the Local Authority or LEADER;
- A PI (or an organisation governed by a PI) is not considered to be an LCG/Network for SICAP purposes and cannot allocate itself or the organisation governed by it a grant;
- There must be an agreement between the PI and LCG/Network that supporting documentation will be provided to ensure the grant was spent for the purposes intended e.g. a report of the activity and costs funded by SICAP, and evidence that the expenditure was incurred. This must be signed off by the chair of the LCG/Network;
- An LCG/Network is not required to be a member of the PPN to receive a grant.

Activity Types for LCG/Network Grants

Grants can be used to fund the following types of activities:

- The establishment of good governance structures within LCGs/Network;
- The development of a community strategic plan to engage with other funders and stakeholders;
- Small-scale capital items that will improve and enhance the function of the LCG/Network and its work;

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- The development of a community strategic plan to engage with other funders and stakeholders;
- Small-scale capital items that will improve and enhance the function of the LCG/Network and its work;
- Small-scale capital items that have a higher cost than €2,500 and where there is evidence that match funding is in place;
- Capacity building work with LCGs/Networks;
- Community activities that have a clear link to SICAP target groups and SICAP outcomes. These activities must show how they are part of an overall strategy to improve the quality of life for community members;
- Costs of travel and subsistence for LCG/Network members to enable them to participate in regional and national networking and learning opportunities where there is no other source of core funding available to the LCG/Network members;
- Funding to women's groups, men's sheds, homework clubs, youth work initiatives, afterschool programmes delivered by LCGs/Networks are eligible as long as the funding is allocated to a specific activity that focuses on SICAP target groups and is linked to an action in the SICAP annual plan.

Grants cannot be used to fund the following types of activities:

- Travel and subsistence for employees of other service providers that are a member of boards of management of LCGs/Networks or have a role in projects led by LCGs/Networks;
- Grants to statutory service providers operating breakfast clubs and homework support programmes;
- Funding for on-going running costs incurred by LCGs/Networks, e.g. rent, insurance, electricity, phone costs and office maintenance.

Match Funding

PIs can collaborate with the Local Authority to match fund grant aid (to avoid duplication). The PI must have a clear role in the decision-making process for the grant and the PI should directly administer the SICAP fund element of the grant.

Grants to Social Enterprises and Enterprise Start-ups

Grant Rules for Social Enterprises

Grants can be made available under Goal 1 to assist a social enterprise at any stage of its development. The objective is to support social enterprises to establish and expand, employing those who are most marginalised, and so they can provide local services where other enterprises may not be able to.

Grant Eligibility:

- The maximum amount per grant to a social enterprise is €2,500;
- Social enterprises can only receive one grant annually;
- Match funding of 20% is required by the grantee, at least half of which must be paid in cash.

Eligible Costs for Social Enterprises and Enterprise Start-Ups

The below categories are the eligible costs for social enterprises and enterprise start-ups:

- Advertising and marketing aids;
- Accountancy and related services, including legal advice;
- Business equipment;
- Short-term training on book-keeping, regulation, rollout of business plan, start-your-own-business and courses of training related to the start-up;
- Signage Compliance, guidance and training;
- Job-specific tools and equipment;
- Office supplies and stationery;
- Personal protective clothing and equipment;
- Public Liability Insurance costs associated with setting up a business – no other insurance is eligible;
- Business mentoring;
- Business registration costs and fees;
- Upgrading to premises where the premises is owned by the applicant;
- Website registration, related services and production.

Public Funding from Other Sources

- PIs should know if the start-up/social enterprise has applied for a grant from another public body or if it is receiving a grant from another public body and what the grant is being used for;

- If already in receipt of public funding, the PI may decide that the SICAP grant is best allocated to another entity in order to reduce duplication of funding;
- PIs may assist clients to prepare funding proposals for other agencies such as Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), Micro-Finance Ireland, Clann Credo or under LEADER.

Ineligible Costs for Social Enterprise and Enterprise Start-Ups

Grants cannot be made available for the following items:

- Building/premises rental costs;
- Cost of travel (except as set out in eligible costs above);
- Insurance (except public liability);
- Personal clothing and uniforms (except protective clothing);
- Professional development programmes and membership fees arranged by professional and regulatory bodies;
- Purchase of any type of vehicle;
- Stock-in-trade;
- Utility costs, connection or supply and local authority rates;
- Core costs should normally not be funded and are only eligible in exceptional circumstances in a start-up situation and on a once-off basis.