



## **Social Enterprise Grant Funding through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024**

### **Programme Aim**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP 2024-2028 is the successor programme to SICAP 2018-2023, which was the successor programme to SICAP 2015-2017.

### **Goal 1: Supporting Communities**

Goal 1 of SICAP aims to empower communities to identify and respond to their own needs. It is concerned with the principles of participation, empowerment, capacity building, and collective action, and is underpinned by a community development approach.

### **Social Enterprise Grants**

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.

Only social enterprises, as defined in the National Social Enterprise Policy (see below), may apply for grant aid. All applicants will be checked and verified to ensure they meet the definition. Applicants who do not meet this definition will not be considered.

- A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders.
- It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives.
- It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and is independent of the public sector. If dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.

*National Social Enterprise Policy 2019*

### **Grant Eligibility:**

- The maximum amount per grant to a social enterprise is €500;
- The grant must not exceed **80% of the total projected** project expenditure as outlined in the grantee's application. Match funding must be in cash;
- Social enterprises can only receive one grant annually;
- There must be an agreement between Leitrim Development Company and the social enterprise that evidence 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;
- Grants should only be made available to social enterprises which contain fewer than ten people – “micro-enterprises”, unless exceptional circumstances are presented;
- Grants can be provided to social enterprises operating in any sector of the local economy as long as the risk of displacing existing jobs has been considered and there is no risk of displacement.

### **Eligible Costs**

The below categories are the eligible costs for social enterprises

- 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.

## Ineligible Costs for Social Enterprise

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.



**The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus**