

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027



LEADER
Development led by local communities

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG on behalf of the Kerry LAG is inviting Expressions of Interest for the LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 under the Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment Sub-Theme of the Programme from Tuesday 18th March 2025.

About the (LEADER) Programme 2023 -2027

LEADER is a Community Led Local Development approach that involves the participation of rural communities in developing responses to the key economic, environmental and social challenges identified in their areas. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG has been implementing the LEADER Programme in South Kerry since 1991.

Aim of the Sub-Theme

The Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment sub-theme aims to integrate sustainability into infrastructure, local amenities, agri-food, and the blue economy. It also focuses on building local capacity, conducting analysis and development, and providing training to ensure the long-term sustainability of the county.

Both globally and locally, the natural environment is experiencing increased pressure. As such, and as the South Kerry region is rich in natural assets, there is significant potential to implement measures to support the health and resilience of biodiversity in our areas. These actions will not only benefit our immediate surroundings but also contribute to broader environmental efforts, both locally and globally.

Projects under this sub-theme could include funding for equipment and protective clothing for initiatives that tackle invasive species on land and in water. Other capital projects could support community groups in the creation or improvement of green spaces, community gardens, allotments, and biodiversity zones. Eligible applicants might also choose to apply for animation and training support for community-based projects aimed, for example, at upskilling local communities on effective methods for managing invasive species.

Other examples:

- **Biodiversity Training:** Focusing on species identification and protection techniques
- **Biodiversity Assessment and Protection:** Training and support for local biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts
- **Green Roof Building Projects:** Especially for community shelters
- **Wildlife Corridors:** Development of pathways to support wildlife movement
- **Greywater Recycling and Rainwater Harvesting:** Funding for sustainable water management systems
- **Renewable Energy Initiatives:** Support for analysis studies to determine the potential for renewables, namely through microgeneration and solar
- **Blue Economy Projects:** supporting the development of economic empowerment and resilience of communities living around oceans, seas, lakes and river.
- **Sustainable Event Management:** Training on eco-friendly practices for organising community events and festivals
- **Citizen Science:** Training on practical water assessment and protection measures

Categories under which assistance may be sought

Support is open to the Community sector (minimum grant funding €1,250 and maximum grant funding €15,000).

Grant Support Available

The total budget for this call is €100,000. The minimum funding available to any individual project is €1,250 and the maximum amount of funding available to any individual project is €15,000.

Grant aid is available up to 75% of the Total Project Cost. For training projects, grant aid is available up to 100% of the Total Project Costs and for Analysis and Development projects (feasibility studies, plans etc) grant aid is available up to 90%.

Closing Date for Receipt of Expressions of Interest

The Closing Date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is **Friday 18th April 2025**. To be considered for grant aid, an applicant **must** submit an expression of interest by this date.

Timeframe

SKDP Call for Expressions of Interest – Opening Date: **Tuesday, 18th March 2025**

Expressions of Interest Closing Date: **Friday, 18th April 2025**

Expressions of Interest received assessed by SKDP and eligible applicants notified: **Thursday, 1st May 2025**

Those successful at EOI Stage will be eligible to submit an application as part of the second stage of the targeted call.

Closing Date for receipt of full applications: **Friday, 13th June 2025**

Contact Details

Expression of Interest Forms can be downloaded from the SKDP website www.southkerry.ie or by calling into your Local SKDP Office.

If you have a project idea you would like to discuss, please contact the LEADER Officer for your area below:

Cahersiveen area:

Maureen O'Donnell, LEADER Co-Ordinator, West Main Street, Cahersiveen

066 – 9472724

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Killorglin / Rathmore area:

Sean de Buitlear, LEADER Development Officer, Library Place, Killorglin

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Kenmare / Killarney area:

Michelle O'Sullivan, LEADER Development Officer, Library Place, Killorglin

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