

Priority 4

Provision of rural services

Total Available funding: €115,251.00 (2015 – 2020)

Applications must be for at least £2,500 with a maximum grant amount of £40,000. In exceptional circumstances a higher grant amount may be awarded to projects which demonstrate exceptional economic outputs including job creation. The maximum intervention rate is 40%.

Please note, de minimis state aid regulations mean that a maximum of €200,000 is available to any one applicant in any 3-year period. If an applicant has other public funding, this may count towards the de minimis amount and reduce the amount of money they can apply for.

These grants are for projects that aim to alleviate some of the difficulties faced by rural communities, particularly the lack of access to services and the provision of infrastructure. Projects should make a contribution to growing the local economy. They could include the development of community buildings, public spaces or cultural or tourism amenities.

Who can apply?

- New or existing micro or small businesses
- Rural community organisations
- Public or private entities working in partnership with small and micro business and rural community groups
- Local authorities
- Organisations in charge of tourist and recreational development

Eligibility;

Types of project include;

- Plans for the development of municipalities and villages in the rural areas and their rural services
- Creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy systems which would not be eligible for Renewable Heat incentive of Feed-In tariffs
- Setting up, improving or expanding of essential rural services for the local community
- Projects that involve visits to farms for educational purposes, so that the public has a greater understanding of the countryside and rural areas
- Small-scale village infrastructure and access to key services which may include tourism projects that increase services for the local community and contribute to village renewal
- Setting-up, improving or expanding essential services for the local community and contribute to village renewal
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Costs could include;

- Construction costs, acquisition or improvement to immovable property

- feasibility studies and construction of renewable energy production, plant and construction of renewable energy production plant and distribution capacity
- The purchase or hire purchase of new machinery and equipment
- General costs linked to facilitating investments such as architect, engineer , consultation fees (limited to 15% of projects total eligible costs)

