

2023 TO 2027 LEADER PROGRAMME

LIMERICK TARGETED CALL 2025

KEY DATES

Call Opening:	Friday 12th September 2025
Deadline for Submission of Expression of Interest (EOI):	Friday 24 th October 2025
Deadline for Submission of Full Application:	Friday 13 th February 2026

It is estimated that the outcome of the call will be announced late Spring 2026.

OVERVIEW

LEADER operates a two-step application process.

- Step 1 - Expression of Interest (EOI) – this is used to determine project eligibility in principle. Those successful at EOI stage will be eligible to submit a full application.
- Step 2 - Application Submission - the application will be subject to an independent evaluation prior to submission to Local Action Group (LAG) for final decision. Full application guidelines are contained in West Limerick Resources Application Handbook available on request.

The purpose of targeted calls for EOIs, and the subsequent application, is to allow Local Action Groups (LAGs) to target funding at areas where it can deliver the most value, and where a comparative assessment is considered appropriate.

CALL THEMES AND BUDGET

Sub-theme	Available Budget
Optimising Digital Connectivity	€ 228,146.93

This sub-theme supports local actions that complement national initiatives aimed at developing a comprehensive rural broadband infrastructure but does not cover most broadband infrastructure, as this is covered under the National Broadband Plan. Actions that may be covered include basic ICT training to priority groups, skills development for installing broadband and feasibility studies in relation to community broadband. Other areas that may be considered, include but are not limited to, proposals that explore new ways of capitalising on digital technologies at community and/or enterprise level, development of smart applications and services for rural communities, investment in new digital technologies that positively impact on climate change and technical assistance to explore diversity of uses of digital connectivity and its application.

LEVELS OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

The rate of grant aid is governed by the type of applicant and will be based on eligible costs specific to the project. LEADER funding can be provided for the following infrastructure items up to a maximum of 75% of the eligible project costs for both community based and private promoters, subject to a maximum funding limit of €10,000 per successful proposal e.g. Small scale equipment (such as in-building boosters); Mobile phone repeaters in certain instances and cabling infrastructure (e.g. indoor broadband cabling). Funding under the Optimising Digital Connectivity call is not limited to physical infrastructure. Examples of the other funding opportunities under this LEADER sub-theme include: IT Equipment (75% to max €200,000); Feasibility studies (90% to max €30,000) and training (100% to max €200,000). The minimum grant amount is €5,000. For further details see the accompanying EOI and Application handbooks.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

An Independent LEADER Evaluation Committee will evaluate all projects based on objective criteria as detailed in the Application Handbook. A project must score a minimum of 65% of the total marks to be recommended for approval to the LAG. Projects submitted under this targeted call will be evaluated against other projects seeking funding under the same call and ranked in order of highest to lowest as per the scoring record and funding distributed according to this ranking.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Where applicable, full planning permission (Notification of Grant of Permission) and procurement must be in place at time of application deadline (13th February 2026).
- Project activity undertaken or commenced, or the purchase of goods or services engaged by the project applicant prior to the date of contract signing, shall not be eligible for LEADER funding.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details on the LEADER EOI and Application process, see the accompanying EOI and Application Handbooks available on request. EOI Handbook and form are available to download from www.wlr.ie.

CONTACTS

Expression of Interest Forms are available online at www.wlr.ie. To arrange a meeting to discuss your project or to request an Expression of Interest form, please contact one of the following:

East Limerick	Katie Murray	LEADER Development Officer	kmurray@wlr.ie	087 3571310
	Aimee Grigg	LEADER Development Officer	agrigg@wlr.ie	087 3563880
West Limerick	Caitriona Scully	LEADER Development Officer	cscully@wlr.ie	087 3575790
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TERMS OF REFERENCE

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All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law, including the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.