

LEADER Investing in Festivals and Cultural Events 2018

Call Brief

Background

Meath Partnership, on behalf of the Meath Local Action Group, invite Expressions of Interest from festival and event organisers across County Meath as part of a targeted call for proposals under the LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020, titled “Investing in Festivals and Cultural Events 2018”.

Introduction

This targeted call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) is being issued under the ‘Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation’ theme of the LEADER Programme with a specific focus on new festival activity, targeting improved economic impact and enhanced community and economic sector participation.

Involving a competitive process, this call seeks to engage festival event organisers with a proven track record, existing festival organisers and experienced organisers seeking to develop new and additional festival related events planned to take place in Co Meath from April to November 2018.

Festival activity both requires and facilitates co-ordinated community input, promotes cultural, commercial and economic expression and fuels the development of locally managed micro economies and the economic utilisation of local resources.

In this context the delivery of a successful festival event is capable of enhancing economic growth and by successfully stimulating and revitalising community interest and participation, can act as a catalyst for wider economic development. Promoting festival development through the provision of financial support is a core strategic objective of the LEADER Local Development Strategy for County Meath. For more information on the relevant LEADER Programme Theme, please visit the Meath Partnership website at:

http://www.meathpartnership.ie/pages/rural_development/

Objectives of this call

Making LEADER grant aid available to festivals and events, new and annualised, targets the growth and sustainability of County Meath’s unique offering. This LEADER aid initiative seeks to broaden and improve event hosting capacity at community level with a strong focus on festival and cultural event activity with the potential for growth and enhanced revenue generation.

The support on offer to successful applicants provides an opportunity to foster and cultivate County Meath’s reputation as a destination of choice for tourism, centred on festivals and events linked to our local heritage, creativity capacity and iconic offerings.

Submitting your Expression of Interest

Expression of Interests must be submitted on the prescribed form which is available for completion or download on the Meath Partnership website; <http://www.meathpartnership.ie/pages/leader-2020/making-an-application/leader-expression-of-interest/> or by contacting Meath Partnership on 046-9280790. All expressions of interest should be submitted in hard copy, must contain original signatures and be accompanied by a completed Data Protection Disclaimer. **The deadline for receipt of all EOIs is 4pm on Monday, 25th September 2017.** As this is a competitive closed call late EOIs submitted will not be considered, without exception.

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It is important also to be aware that both the applicant and the subject of the application for aid must be deemed as eligible to be considered for aid in accordance with the Operating Rules of LEADER and Local Development Strategy for Co Meath. Eligibility in this context will be subject to preliminary assessment against the information provided in the Expression of Interest form. All EOIs received will be evaluated against the selection and eligibility criteria as follows;

Eligibility Assessment	Pass/Fail
Eligibility of Promoter / Applicant	
Eligibility of the Project / the subject of the application	

By way of example only, the following applicants can be considered as eligible and entitled to submit an Expression of Interest.

- Existing Festival and/or Event Organising Committees
- Community Development Organisations and/or Voluntary Groups
- Tourism Provider Networks and/or Organisations
- Festival Committee Networks and/or Collectives
- Private Interests Acting for the common good
- Organisations and Bodies with Heritage, Culture, Sporting, Recreation, Leisure and/or Historical interests

What Can Be Funded?

In general the award of funding can be considered where the proposal being put forward is consistent with the objectives of the LEADER Local Development Strategy and where the specific development for which support is being sought has been identified within the Strategy and operating rules as being eligible for support. In this context the following can be considered as eligible developments:

- Costs associated with the introduction, development and operation of new festivals
- Development costs associated with the growth of existing festivals - such costs can be associated with extending the duration of the festival, introduction of new and innovative festival elements, additional attractions and activities to include exhibitions and performances
- Other costs associated with such developments and which may be eligible for support can include commissioning, marketing and advertising costs, hire or purchase of specialised equipment and staging costs

Please note "Statutory Costs" are not eligible costs under the LEADER operating rules - "those costs which are incurred because they are mandated by a "statute". Simply, when the law requires you to pay something it is called a Statutory Cost e.g. insurance, direct wages, health & safety planning etc.

Budget for Call

The overall available budget for this targeted call for proposals is set at €150,000.00. The minimum grant request which will be considered for support is €5,000.00, the maximum grant available under this call is set at €30,000.00. In some cases the Meath LAG may decide against funding elements of your project or may choose to award grant aid at a level less than that which you applied for.

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Phase 1: Call for Expressions of Interest

In this phase, intending applicants are invited to submit a completed and signed Expression of Interest. **The closing date for the receipt of fully completed expressions of interest is 4pm on Monday, 25th September 2017.** Please return all Expressions of Interest to:

Meath Partnership
Call for Proposals – *Investing in Festivals and Cultural Events 2018*
Unit 7, Kells Business Park,
Cavan Road,
Kells,
Co. Meath A82 T3V5

Once the deadline for receipt of all EOIs has expired, Meath Partnership will evaluate all EOIs received against the relevant eligibility criteria and shortlist those EOIs that are eligible for consideration for support in accordance with said criteria. Meath Partnership will notify all applicants of the outcome of the *Investing in Festivals and Cultural Events 2018* Call for EOIs in writing and a rationale relating to unsuccessful or ineligible EOIs will be communicated to applicants.

Phase 2: Submission of Applications for Grant Aid

All eligible promoters and projects will be invited to attend an Information Workshop in the Meath Partnership offices Kells, on Thursday 28th September 2017 @ 6pm. Promoters will be issued with procurement guidelines and an application pack at the workshop. Please ensure you put this date in your diary.

Closing Date for the Submission of Applications

The closing date for receipt of a fully completed application form will be Friday, 27th October 2017 no later than 4pm. All applications should be submitted in hard copy, must contain original signatures and be accompanied by all supporting documentation as identified in the Application Guidance booklet. It is anticipated that completed applications will be evaluated and assessed for funding in January 2018 with offers of grant aid to successful applicants expected no earlier than March 2018. In line with the operating rules incomplete applications cannot be considered for funding therefore promoters are advised to submit their finished draft application and supporting documents a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the deadline to allow sufficient time for feedback.

Assessment Criteria

All fully completed application forms and supporting documentation received will be subject to assessment and scored against the following criteria by the Independent Evaluation Committee prior to the final determination on the award of LEADER funding in respect of each application, being made by the Meath Local Action Group.

Project Selection and Award Criteria	Scoring
Compatibility with Local Development Strategy and Call Brief	15
Innovation in Project Proposal e.g. creative, original, reforming, enterprising	10
Promoter/applicant experience and capacity	10
Financial viability and impact of proposed project	30
Sustainability e.g. continued operation of completed project	15
Requirement e.g. necessity, essentiality	20
Total	100