

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I in the Leader area?

The Leader area has the same boundary as the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) area. We can check this with our Postcode Database which allows us to clarify the eligible areas for each LAG.

How much can I ask for?

The maximum grant will normally be £50,000 and the percentage contribution will range from 25% - 70%.

Can you fund revenue projects?

Leader is predominantly a capital funding scheme, however there is some funding allocated to revenue elements of projects.

What businesses are eligible?

Rural businesses within the LAG area are eligible. Some proposals are constrained to micro businesses that are defined as having no more than 10 employees, with a turnover or balance sheet of no more than 2 million Euros. If in doubt discuss with Leader staff

As a shop start up, can you fund stock?

No. All capital expenditure must qualify under SEEDA's 5 year retention rule. Anything funded through Leader must be recoverable in 5 year's time.

Can we apply for funding before we have spent it?

No. Any expenditure must be agreed in advance. In addition the leader programme funds claims on receipt of paid invoices. This will have an implication for your project's cash flow.

Is Leader funding appropriate for feasibility studies?

Yes. However the study must be on something that, if feasible, would still qualify for Leader funding. Successful feasibility studies are not guaranteed further Leader funding.

What are the deadlines for applications to be received?

If projects are seeking funding for under £20,000, applications are processed as they are received. For projects requesting more than £20,000 of Leader funding, applications can be submitted at any time but approval will be at quarterly meetings at which the LAG approve or reject the applications. These meetings will have cut off dates associated with them. Applicants will be informed about these during the application process.

Do I need to have match funding for my project?

Yes. All funding for the project needs to be in place, for example savings, loans or other grants.

My project covers a period of 5 years, will Leader support it over all years?

No. The maximum length for Leader funding is 3 years.