

Community Leadership & Capacity Building in County Wexford

About Wexford Local Development

Wexford Local Development (WLD) is one of 52 Local Development Companies in Ireland. We deliver a range of interlinked programmes on behalf of local and national Government to address the needs of individuals and communities in County Wexford. WLD is committed to making a positive impact across the county by promoting employment, inclusion, supporting enterprise and addressing inequality.

Goals & objectives

The goal of this project is to deliver on objectives set in the LEADER 2014-20 Programme, Local Development Strategy (LDS) which was compiled following extensive consultation with local partners, community groups and enterprises. LDS objective:

Theme 2:	Social Inclusion
Sub-Theme:	Basic services targeted at hard to reach communities
Objective 2.1:	To support rural communities to have access to a range of high quality social and recreational facilities.
Action:	Deliver a range of training supports for communities to include community leadership and capacity building for communities.

Context

The county of Wexford has numerous voluntary community groups in operation today who are recognised as the life blood of many of our rural villages and towns. Groups' activities range from direct provision to advocacy, across a wide range of sectors, from healthcare to environmental. In many cases our county's rural communities rely on these voluntary groups for essential services, the continuing provision of basic shared facilities or for the social and economic development of their area.

Wexford's Local Development strategy recognises the significance of this sector with over €2.5million of the current LEADER programme's budget allocated to support projects being realised by community groups. The importance of sustaining voluntary community organisations has not been overlooked; €40,000 (VAT inclusive) has been assigned to the provision of training which fosters future leadership, helping to build capacity within communities.

Overall aim of training

To foster future leadership within the voluntary, community sector in county Wexford, helping to build capacity which supports continued local development, service provision in rural communities and participation in public policy and decision making structures.

Target audience & recruitment

The training would be delivered to current and potential voluntary, community leaders from various organisations and groups. We would anticipate two members from each community group attending (one future leader, one experienced leader) with a maximum of 10 community groups per course. Four separate courses would be delivered in the four main towns (Gorey, Enniscorthy, Wexford & New Ross) to increase pan county accessibility.

Recruitment would be carried out in the more disadvantaged communities (as classified by the Pobal HP Deprivation Index) by Wexford Local Development's Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) team and in other areas of the county by the LEADER Programme community team.

Objectives of training

- To engage future leaders, inspiring an enthusiasm for developing their community and providing some practical tools to initiate or instigate change.
- Support existing leaders to reflect on current practices, considering opportunities to build capacity and to consider successional planning by providing practical tools to initiate or instigate change.
- To enable community leaders to more effectively engage with and participate in public structures such as local authority strategic policy committees, the Public Participation Network, the Local Community Development Committee and other county and local decision making committees. Enabling participants to effectively contribute to the development of the county and to harness opportunities available to support their community's objectives.
- By delivering one programme for both target audiences the course would aim to challenge and improve existing or potential practices through positive peer influencing. Both cohorts can learn from each other; with 'fresh eyes' and experience being brought together.

Delivery method

WLD would foresee this programme being delivered using participatory / dialogical processes with opportunities given to practice learning, reflect on impacts (personal and community) and plan for the future.

In proposing learning tools or delivery methods providers are asked to give consideration to the diverse background and educational experiences of participants. It is essential that delivery methods do not exclude those who struggle with their literacy skills or in any way isolate these participants from activities. If a minimum literacy level is required for participation please state this in your proposal and / or include costs associated with providing basic skills supports by a suitably qualified individual.

Contact time should be proposed as the provider recommends e.g. two/ three whole days or half days, with or without breaks between contact days, evenings or weekends. We would ask providers to consider including a shorter, final, celebration session which brings together all participants from the four courses.

Desired training outcomes

- Community leaders/participants to have acknowledged the strengths of and potential within their own community.
- For participants to have a greater understanding of their role as enablers within their community.
- For initial actions to be considered, practiced and learning reflected upon.
- For each pair of participants to produce 'personal' and 'community' based blue sky and attainable/tangible action plans to take forward.
- For participants to have an increased understanding of public structures and to have the confidence to participate in and harness these, in support of their community's goals and for the betterment of the county.
- For participants to have the opportunity to consider additional training opportunities to support their role as community leaders (WLD and partners will provide brief).

Notes

- The proposed courses are for delivery in the county of Wexford, Ireland in the spring or early summer of 2019.
- Venues and catering arrangements, and associated costs will be managed by WLD directly from the same allocated budget.
- Wexford Local Development (WLD) & Wexford County Council in partnership, will deliver / participate in a short session focusing on practical supports for community groups.
- A staff member from the LEADER Programme and SICAP Programme will attend each of the four courses.

Tender Submission

Interested providers are asked to submit proposals including details of delivery methods and structures, explaining why you would choose this approach. Please include details of methods you would use to evaluate course effectiveness/impacts and any recommended follow ups to increase sustainability and/or measure the sustainability of course impacts. Please be mindful of the criteria being used to select the course provider and any specific instructions to providers included in the text above.

All proposals must include the following:

- Tendering organisation's name, registered address and contact details.
- VAT registration number (if not registered for VAT please state).
- All tenders must be addressed to Wexford Local Development with reference to 'LEADER Programme 2014-20 – Community Leadership & Capacity Building Training'.
- Costs must be itemised as appropriate, include a sub total, the VAT rate must be clearly shown, a VAT subtotal and an overall total must be shown.

Assessment criteria for selection of training provider

Area of Assessment	Points Available
Experience of delivering participatory training focused on fostering and strengthening leadership.	30
Proposed programme and its suitability to achieve defined outcomes for the target audience; delivery methods, content, structure and materials.	30
Experience/qualifications of programme leaders/support workers (please include CV's).	10
Experience of working with voluntary community groups; proven understanding of the associated challenges.	10
Recommendations of/references from community groups who have benefited from training delivered by the provider.	10
Value for money.	10
Total	100

Specification publication date: 23rd July 2018
Closing date for receipt of tenders: 12 noon on 24th August 2018

All queries are to be addressed via etenders.gov.ie. Full tender submissions should be submitted via etenders RFT Ref 137339.