

# Grant Size

## Need & Value for Money

You will read further below about the factors that determine grant size including the LAG limits, the intervention rate and public funding.

However please consider that although a project might be eligible to apply for up to £100,000 or up to (for example) 40% towards the total project costs, an applicant should only apply for what is required for the project to go ahead.

Applicants will need to show the need for funding and that there are no other funds available elsewhere. They will also need to show that a grant is good value for money in terms of LEADER values which focuses on rural economic benefits. For example a project that asks for £30,000 and creates 1 FTE will be considered better value for money than a project that asks for £100,000 and create 0 jobs.

**Don't just apply for the maximum amount you can if it is not required and please consider value for money.**

The size of the grant that you can apply for will depend on a number of different factors.

## LAG Limits

Oxfordshire LAG have decided that the minimum grant is £5,000 and the maximum grant is £100,000. There is the opportunity in exceptional cases for projects to apply for more than £100,000. This would be either if the economic outputs for the project were particularly high or the project fitted strongly with the Oxfordshire LAG's local priorities. In any case you would need to talk to us first before applying for more than £100,000.

## Intervention rate (%)

The intervention rate is the maximum percentage of the project's total eligible costs that can be applied. **The majority of projects will have a limit of 40%.** For example:

Total project cost	Max intervention rate	Max LEADER grant
£50,000	40%	£20,000

For some not-for-profit projects it is possible to apply for up to 80% or 100%. **It's important to note that it is not the status of the organisation but the activity that determines the maximum grant rate.** A charity does automatically qualify for a higher intervention rate.

**Up to 80%** for non-profit making projects that have a benefit in terms of value added to the wider rural community of local tourist economy and where there is some income to offset costs for the project / activity and no profit or dividend.

For example:

- Tourism project – event or festival
- Rural service project – community hall with income to cover operating costs and maintenance

A project can only apply for 80% if the revenue generated is put back towards the costs of that project or activity. If it is to be used to fund other projects or activities in the wider organisation, the grant would be capped at 40%.

Example scenario where not eligible for 80%:

*A charity decides to create a community room in a redundant building they have in order to create a new income which as well as cover maintenance of the the community room would also be used to fund their main charitable activities such as delivering educational workshops. Even if those other activities are not-for-profit, as surplus from the community room is being used for wider organisation activities it would be limited to 40%.*

Example scenario where eligible for 80%:

*A new museum wants funding towards a café for visitors to the museum which is part of the whole visitor experience. Profits from the café would be put back into the whole visitor experience at the museum and therefore the project would be eligible for 80%.*

**Up to 100%** for non-profit making projects that have a benefit in terms of value added to the wider rural community of local tourist economy and where there is no income.

For example:

- Tourism project – paths, cycle paths, signage, information boards, visitor centres
- Rural service project – playgrounds, free transport services

## **Public Funding**

We need to know what other public funding an applicant has received in the past as well as any that might be secured already for the project they are applying to LEADER for. It might determine the size of the grant or mean that an applicant is ineligible for a grant.

### **Other public funding for the same project**

The intervention rate is also the limit of public funding that a project should receive from any public sources.

Examples:

Maximum Intervention Rate	LEADER Grant	Match Funding
Project with 40% intervention maximum	Applies for 40% from LEADER	60% - need to be from private sources
Project with 40% intervention maximum	Applies for 25% from LEADER	Up to 15% - could come from other public funds At least 60% would need to come from private sources
Project with 80% intervention maximum	Applies for 80% from LEADER	20% - need to be from private sources
Project with 80% intervention maximum	Applies for 35% from LEADER	Up to 45% - could come from other public funds At least 20% would need to come from private sources

### Public funding received as an organisation – State Aid

*De minimis state aid regulations mean that a maximum of €200,000 (currently around £170,000) of Public Funds is available to any one organisation in any rolling period of 3 financial years. If an applicant has had other public funding this may count towards the de minimis aid amount and reduce the amount of money they can apply for from LEADER. Please note that Basic Payment Scheme and Countryside Stewardship payments do NOT count towards the de minimis limit. Please also note that any de minimis state aid received by linked businesses may also count towards the de minimis amount.*

We will need to check if applicants have received public funding in the past and if it is De Minimis, that they are not over the limit of £170,000 over a three year rolling period.