Guidelines for SICAP -
Social Enterprise Grant 2026

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Union. It is overseen locally by Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with support from Monaghan County Council.

Tá an Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus Gníomhachtú Pobail (SICAP) cómhaoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann, tríd an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus ag an Aontas Eorpach trí Chiste Sóisialta na hEorpa Plus. Tá sé á mhaoirsiú go háitiúil ag Coiste Forbhartha Pobail Áitiúil (CFPÁ) Mhuineacháin le tacaíocht ó Comhairle Chontae Mhuineacháin.

Grant Rules for Social Enterprises:
Grants can be made available to assist a social enterprise at any stage of its development. The objective is to support social enterprises to establish and expand, employing those who are most marginalised, and so they can provide local services where other enterprises may not be able to.

SICAP Target Groups (most marginalised)

- People living in disadvantaged communities
- People impacted by educational disadvantage
- People living in jobless households or households where the primary income source is low-paid and/or precarious
- People who are long-term unemployed
- People with a criminal history
- Refugees
- International Protection Applicants
- Disabled People/People with Disabilities
- Heads of One-parent Families
- Travellers
- Roma
- Island residents

Grant Guidelines

- The maximum amount per grant to a social enterprise is €2,500.
- Match funding of 20% is required by the grantee, at least half of which must be paid in cash.
- Social enterprises can only receive one grant annually.
- Grants should only be made available to social enterprises which contain fewer than 10 people – "microenterprises" unless exceptional circumstances are presented.
- There must be an agreement between Monaghan Integrated Development CLG and the social enterprise that evidence will be provided to ensure the grant was spent for the purposes intended
- Three quotations for all items must be submitted with the application.

Eligible grant categories.

- Advertising and marketing aids.
- Accountancy and related services, including legal advice.
- Business equipment.
- Short-term training on book-keeping, regulation, rollout of business plan, start-your-own-business and courses of training related to the start-up.
- Signage Compliance, guidance, and training.
- Job-specific tools and equipment.
- Office supplies and stationery.
- Personal protective clothing and equipment.
- Public Liability Insurance costs associated with setting up a business – no other insurance is eligible.
- Business mentoring.
- Business registration costs and fees.
- Upgrading to premises where the premises is owned by the applicant.
- Website registration, related services, and production.

Ineligible grants categories

- Building/premises rental costs.
- Cost of travel (except as set out in eligible costs above).
- Insurance (except public liability).
- Personal clothing and uniforms (except protective clothing).
- Professional development programmes and membership fees arranged by professional and regulatory bodies.
- Purchase of any type of vehicle.
- Stock-in-trade.
- Utility costs, connection or supply and local authority rates.
- Core costs should normally not be funded and are only eligible in exceptional circumstances in a start-up situation and on a once-off basis.
- A limited number of grants are available. Grant applications will be considered on a first-come, first -served basis.
- No purchases should take place until grant approval has been awarded.

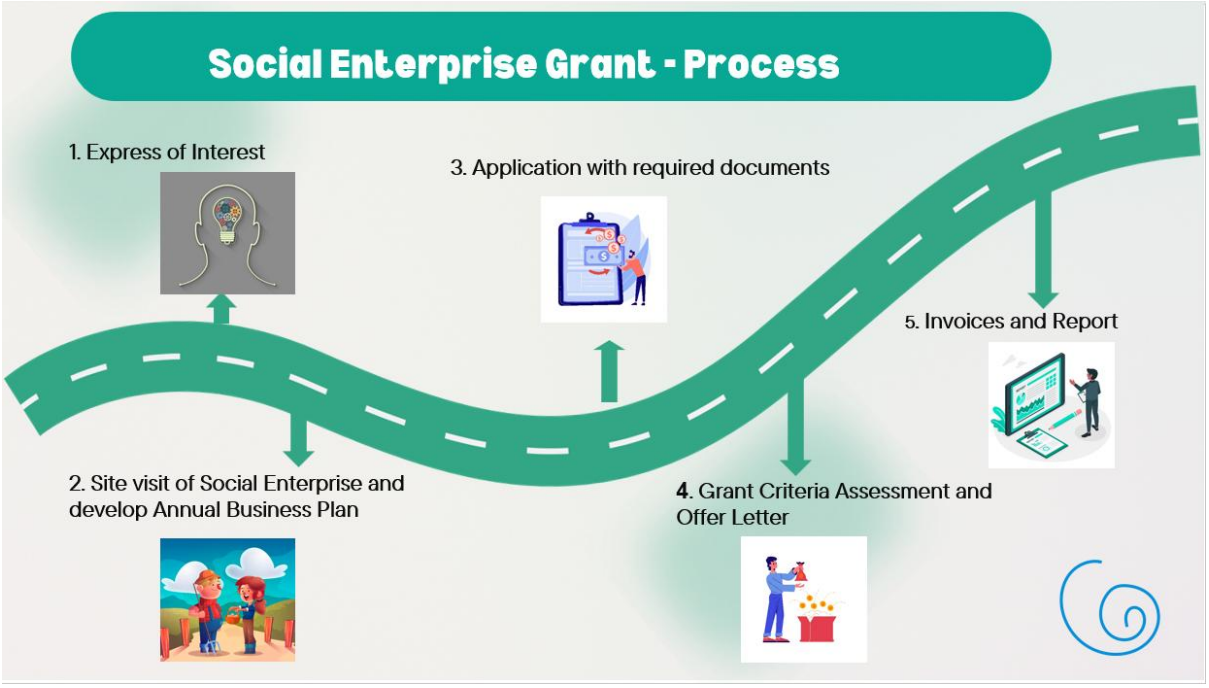
Required documents.

- Copy of Business Registration certificate
- A copy of written constitution / or standing orders/memorandum / or articles of association
- Most recent set of financial accounts (eg. audit report or management accounts)
- Copy of Tax Clearance Access Number
- Evidence of your bank account (top portion of your bank statement)
- A copy of your business plan
- Completed SICAP – Social Enterprise Grant application form
- Two written supplier quotations for all items for which funding is sought.
- SICAP – Registration Form (We will complete this once we receive the application form)
- SICAP – Annual Support Plan We will complete this once we receive the application form)

Public Funding from Other Sources

- Social Enterprise should inform if the start-up/social enterprise has applied for a grant from another public body or if it is receiving a grant from another public body and what the grant is being used for.

Process of the SICAP - Social Enterprise Grant



Further information:

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