



OPERATING GUIDELINES

COUNTY ENTERPRISE FUND

The primary object of the County Enterprise Fund is to assist through grant aid in the establishment of small-scale economic projects, with the primary aims of facilitating the creation of sustainable jobs and the development of economic infrastructure at local level. The fund will support: -

- a) Individuals providing products or services which have the capacity to achieve commercial viability
- b) The preparation of feasibility studies and business plans aimed at assessing the viability of projects.

ELIGIBLE ENTERPRISE

- 1) All areas of enterprise are eligible provided they conform with the Board's Action Plan and meet the criteria set for State and E.U. funding.
- 2) The Board may assist from its budget, suitable enterprise projects which fit into the Board's Enterprise Plan, companies with an employment potential of up to ten persons, but excluding existing firms, which already have a relationship with Enterprise Ireland/ Shannon Development.
- 3) Special consideration will be given to the following areas of enterprise: -
 - a) Childcare
 - b) Craft Industry
 - c) Water Based Activity
 - d) Recycling Businesses
- 4) The Board will consider service type projects and will give special consideration to service projects submitted from peripheral areas of the county.

INELIGIBLE ENTERPRISE

- 1) Areas of enterprise, which the Board consider to be currently adequately served.
- 2) Areas of enterprise on the E.U and national sensitive sectors list
- 3) Areas of enterprise coming under other schemes or operational programmes
- 4) Projects involving primary agricultural production
- 5) Conferences and seminars
- 6) Projects which are contrary to public policy
- 7) Duplication of support for projects which would be eligible for assistance from other State Agencies or E.U. funded Operational Programmes.
- 8) Existing firms, which already have an established relationship with Shannon Development or Enterprise Ireland.
- 9) Areas of enterprise which involve –
 - a) Displacement of existing jobs and
 - b) Duplication of effort and aid

- 10) Retail outlets and professional services
- 11) Projects with investment costs in excess of €150,000
- 12) Projects with employees in excess of 10 people
- 13) Mobile assets, i.e. cars, motor vans, mobile machinery etc.
- 14) Grant assistance will not be provided for the purchase of land or buildings
- 15) Assistance towards working capital is excluded.

CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE

- 1) Projects to be assisted must be in the commercial sphere and must in general be capable of attaining economic viability, without ongoing Exchequer or European Community assistance.
- 2) In particular, project promoters should be able to demonstrate that: -
 - a) There is a market for the proposed product or service to be produced.
 - b) Adequate overall finance will be available to fund the project.
 - c) They possess the management and technical capacity to implement the proposed project.
- 3) Projects to be assisted should add value so as to generate income or supplement income for those involved, and should have the capacity to create new direct employment either full or part time, or seasonal, or should as a minimum contribute directly to the maintenance of employment in existing small enterprises.
- 4) Promoters of projects to be assisted must comply with existing policies on tax clearance, the certification of sub-contractors and related matters.
- 5) Limited assistance may be provided for certain county level economic promotional activities.

GRANT LEVELS

The following levels will apply: -

- ⊗ A maximum of 50% of the cost of capital and other investment or €75,000 whichever is the lesser.
- ⊗ A maximum of 50% of the cost of preparing a feasibility study/ business plan, subject to an overall limit of €5,100 in the case of a single project.
 - Since the fund is devised to assist small projects, grants in excess of €75,000 or projects with investment costs in excess of €150,000 will not normally be considered.
 - Grant aid will not be provided retrospectively. Payments of grants will be made, in full or in part, on the basis of invoiced expenditure vouched as paid. The Board may attach such further conditions to the payment of grants in particular circumstances, as they may from time to time deem appropriate.

APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE

Promoters of projects may obtain application forms by contacting:

**Clare County Enterprise Board Ltd.,
Enterprise House, Mill Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Telephone: 065-6841922

Fax: 065-6841887

Email: clareceb@clareceb.ie

Web-site: www.clareceb.ie



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