



Carlow County Development Partnership

Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd (CCDP Ltd) was established in early 2009. CCDP Ltd is responsible for the strategic management and delivery of a range of economic and social development programmes and initiatives to individuals, enterprises and communities throughout Carlow Town and County

Programmes

Rural Development Programme

The broad objectives of LEADER Axes of the Programme are to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to encourage diversification of economic activity in rural areas including supports for non-agricultural activities. The measures under Axis 3 include a range of initiatives that are designed to promote economic activity in rural areas and also stimulate broader community initiatives aimed at improving the overall quality of life for rural dwellers.

Who can benefit from the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme?

Individuals with a viable idea for a rural enterprise.

Businesses based in County Carlow wishing to expand or diversify

Farm Families wishing to diversify into non-agricultural activities

What are the areas where Rural Development Programme Support can be sought?

1. Farm Diversification into non-agricultural activities – this includes:

All non-agricultural enterprise activities undertaken by farm families, in particular, provision of tourism facilities such as renovation of farm buildings for tourism purposes, walking, cycling, angling, pony trekking,

Development of niche tourism and educational services such as arts and crafts, open farms etc.

2. Supports for Business Creation and Development – this includes

Provision for a range of assistance types for start-up enterprises

Provision for a range of assistance types for and expansion of existing micro enterprises (Less than 10 employees)
Development of innovative products and activities.

3. Encouragement of Tourism Activities – this includes

Development of niche tourism.

Support for the development of tourism facilities and amenities.

Support for tourism marketing.

Support for the provision of tourism accommodation where needed, in conjunction with board policy

What elements of my project can I apply for? What can the NRDP support?

Mentoring

Training

Research (Development of Feasibility Study)

Construction Costs

New Machinery & Equipment

Marketing/Promotion

Publications

Project grant rates:

Up to 100% of training costs.

Up to 75% of research costs of a project up to a level of €30,000

Up to 50% for individuals/businesses for capital costs of the project up to a level of €150,000

Next Steps:

Application process:

1. Contact a member of Carlow County Development Partnership (CCDP) to discuss your project confidentially
2. A CCDP staff member will assess eligibility of your project Idea
3. If your proposal is deemed eligible you will be assisted to prepare an application along with a business plan

4. The project will then be present to the CCDP Evaluation Committee for approval
5. The project will be presented to the Board of CCDP for a final decision
6. Upon approval the project, you will be issued with a formal letter of offer
7. The Project may commence on acceptance of a letter of offer

Local & Community Development Programme

Aim

The Local and Community Development Programme aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities.

Target Groups/Areas

The programme prioritises marginalised people and groups within the most disadvantaged communities, which means that it targets those furthest from access to education, training and employment, and those at highest risk of social exclusion. The programme will continue to work with the target groups/areas and issues as prioritised under the previous programmes based on an identification and demonstration of analysis of local need.

Programme Goals

1. Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services.
2. Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources.
3. Increase people's work readiness and employment prospects.
4. Promote active engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities.

For further information

Contact: 0599720733

Email: info@carlowdevelopment.ie

Tus Community Work Placement Initiative

The Tús Initiative is a community work placement scheme providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed people in Carlow. The work opportunities are to be provided by Community and Voluntary Organisations in both urban and rural areas and should benefit the community. The types of project eligible for the scheme may include:

Energy conservation work in homes and community buildings,

Social care of all age groups and people with disabilities,
Caretaking, securing, supervising of community buildings and spaces,
Renovation of community and sporting facilities, including the regeneration
and enhancement of community, recreation and sporting spaces,
Work in support of cultural and heritage activities,
Community administration and community event management,
Coaching for sporting activities and repair of equipment for the Third World
– for example, farm tools, bicycles, computers, sewing machines, health
equipment.

To be eligible to participate in the Tús scheme you must:

- (a) Have been continuously unemployed for at least 12 months and "signing on" on a full-time basis;
- (b) Have been receiving a jobseeker's payment (Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance) from the Department of Social Protection for at least 12 months; or
- (c) Be currently receiving Jobseeker's Allowance. The Department of Social Protection will identify and contact persons on the Live Register who satisfy the criteria and offer them the opportunity to be considered for local placement as opportunities arise. When those identified agree to participate, they will be referred to CCDP for interview and consideration for placement.

Participants will be employees of CCDP and will work for 19 ½ hours a week. The placement lasts 12 months. They will receive the same statutory annual leave and public holiday entitlement as other employees. When the placement finishes, they should sign on again with their local social welfare office.

They then cannot participate in the Tús scheme again for 3 years. The payment is the full Jobseeker's Allowance rate plus €20 a week. Participants aged under 25 will be paid the maximum rate of Jobseeker's Allowance plus €20. They will **retain any secondary benefits and the medical card** provided they are still eligible.

Contact: Mary Walsh
Email: info@carlowdevelopment.ie

Carlow Rural Social Scheme

What is The Carlow Rural Social Scheme?

The Rural Social Scheme commenced in October 2004 in Co.Carlow, we currently

have 18 Participants, both male & female, who work in various villages and towns in the county, working in areas such as care of the Elderly, Childcare, Village enhancement, caretaking of sports facilities, caretaking of heritage sites, caretaking of Scout facilities.

Participants work 19.5 hours per week, this enables Farmers to remain working on their farms while earning a supplementary income, The 19.5 hours are based on a farmer-friendly schedule. Participants experience the opportunity to improve their existing skills or develop new ones.

The benefits for the communities are enormous as the scheme helps improve local amenities and facilities in rural areas

Participation on the RSS is not intended to be on a permanent basis. The operation of the RSS will be reviewed after each 12 month term. If your application is successful, you will be included on the RSS for a 12 month period, following each term you may re-apply, then you will be considered for participation in a further term or for inclusion in any waiting list that may be in operation.

In Summary..

Are you in receipt of Farm Assist?

OR

Have you got a Herd or Flock no?

AND

Are you in receipt of one of the following:

- Unemployment Benefit (if previously on a CE Scheme)
- Disability Allowance
- Unemployment Assistance.

Then you may be eligible to participate in the Rural Social Scheme

For Further Information and an application form contact Janice O'Donnell at **059-9720733**.

Carlow Warmer Homes Scheme

The aim of the Carlow Warmer Homes Scheme is to improve the energy efficiency and comfort conditions of homes occupied by low income households in the county. This will be achieved through implementing improved energy efficiency measures in target dwellings. The key services that will be provided are as follows:

- Provision of energy awareness, advice and information including energy auditing and surveying
- Cavity wall insulation services for eligible clients
- Attic insulation and related service provision
- Draught proofing doors and windows
- Attic insulation
- Supply and fit of hot water tank lagging jacket
- Supply and fit of low energy light bulbs

The Programme supports are targeted at low income households in receipt of fuel allowance.

The scheme will be launching soon.

Carlow Jobs Club

Carlow Jobs Club provides training to help you prepare to find a suitable job, access suitable training or education opportunities.

The Jobs Club aims to expand awareness and help participants understand how the application of simple techniques can greatly enhance jobseeking skills.

Participants are all job seekers who have a common goal - a genuine interest in finding suitable employment or training. Under the guidance of the Jobs Club Staff, you will receive training and support in getting back to work, training or education.

Participants also work together, share their experiences and explore local work opportunities.

Joining the Jobs Club is **free of charge**.

What do I need to do?

All you need is to have a genuine interest in finding work, training or education. If you have the commitment, then the Jobs Club can show you how to go about achieving your goal.

Key Features of Jobs Club Programme:

How to master CV's, Cover Letters, Application Forms and Interviews;
Develop an individual job search plan;
Every client will leave with a tailored CV and the opportunity to sit a mock interview
Identify individual strengths and skills and match them to local work opportunities;
Explore and analyse local work opportunities;
Have access , free of charge to the facilities of the Job Club (telephones, computer, internet & email access, stationary, stamps & newspapers etc.);

Course Duration:

Formal training takes place each month for a 3 week period and we offer follow on support for as long as a participant requires. Ongoing use of the Jobs Club facilities is available to participants until they find a suitable job, training or education course.

For those who cannot attend the recommended training course, we also provide a drop in service in the afternoons, where we can assist you.

Job Club participants retain their social welfare allowances during the training modules and receive €60 on completion of the programme to help with additional costs.

Who is the Jobs Club targeted at?

Anyone who is registered with FÁS, seeking work or training and are between 16 and 65 years of age, can join the Jobs Club.

Contact: Valerie Reddy/Ann Crimmins

Tel: 059 9135534 / **Fax:** 059 9135535