LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

**TARGETED CALL FOR PROPOSALS: YOUTH FACILITIES/TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

Laois Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in partnership with Laois Partnership Company has responsibility to deliver the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme in County Laois. The new Rural Development (LEADER) Programme promotes social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

**Social Inclusion**

This calls for proposals falls under the Social Inclusion Theme of the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme. It is recognised both at National and EU level that the youth unemployment rate across the European Union is unacceptably high particularly amongst more socially excluded groups. While the Social Inclusion Action Programme (SICAP) works with a cohort of disadvantaged urban youth there is a gap in the service provision for rural young people.

The Local Development Strategy seeks to address these gaps as follows:

**LEADER Theme/ Sub-Theme:**Social Inclusion –  Rural Youth

**Local Objective:**Support the development of a wide range of skills among rural youth including entrepreneurship and innovation

**Action:**Training for youth in entrepreneurship and ICT/Capital Investment in youth facilities

Under these objectives, Laois LCDC now calls for expressions of interest from youth organisations and promoters of youth facilities and youth training programmes in County Laois.

***Eligible applicants:***

Community Organisations/ Youth Organisations in County Laois

***Eligible Items:***

The following items are eligible for funding:

* Capital projects providing facilities for youth groups/ Innovative training programmes targeted at youth groups.
* **The total budget for this call is €325,000.**
* This is a call for expressions of interest, only eligible proposals will be sent a full application form.
* Grant aid of up to 75% of total eligible costs may be awarded to successful organisations up to a maximum of €200,000.

For further information and to download an Expression of Interest Form please go to the Laois Partnership website (www.laoispartnership.ie) or contact:

Laois Partnership Company, Ground Floor, Block 2, County Hall, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Tel: 057 8661900                               Email: info@laoispartnership.ie

Closing date for completed expressions of interest is Friday 10th August 2018