**Priming Grant**

Eligible clients may be awarded a Priming Grant within the first eighteen months of setting up the business.

Priming Grants may be awarded to sole traders, partnerships or limited companies that fulfil the following criteria:

* Employ up to a maximum of 10 people
* Be established, registered, and operate within the area of the Local Enterprise Office; Kilkenny
* Operate in the commercial field;
* Show there is a market for the product or service;
* Have potential for growth in domestic or export markets; and
* Have potential for job creation without affecting existing local business.

Within the above criteria, there are certain priorities and restrictions. For example, priority will be given to:

* Enterprises in the manufacturing or internationally traded services sector which, over time, can develop into strong export entities and graduate to Enterprise Ireland.
* Unique tourism service enterprises that target generating revenue from overseas visitors; these tourism services should not displace business from other existing players in the market or give rise to deadweight. With regard to restrictions, retail enterprises, personal services, professional services or construction and local building services are not eligible for grant aid.

The maximum Priming Grant payable shall be 50% of the investment or €150,000 whichever is the lesser.

Expenditure may be considered under the following headings:

* Capital items
* Salary costs
* Consultancy/Innovation/Marketing costs
* General overhead costs

All grants of a value greater than or equal to €40,000 or with a cumulative value of €80,000 over three years require Enterprise Ireland Approval.  Grants over €80,000 and up to €150,000 shall be the exception and shall only apply in the case of projects that clearly demonstrate a potential to graduate to Enterprise Ireland.  In all other cases, the maximum grant shall be 50% of the investment or €80,000 whichever is the lesser.  Subject to the 50% limit, a maximum grant of €15,000 per full time job created shall apply in respect of any employment support granted.

If you wish to apply for a Priming Grant please contact us on **056 7752662** or email us at **info@leokilkennycoco.ie** where our Business Advisor can discuss your options with you.