



COVID-19 - Business Supports

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Supports announced on 2 May 2020*

*Further details to be announced shortly

Supports announced on 2 May 2020

- Write off of commercial rates for 3 months
 - Commercial rates to be written off for 3 month period beginning on 27 March 2020 for businesses forced to close due to C-19
- “Warehousing” of VAT and payroll liabilities (to be operated on an administrative basis pending legislation)
 - Applies to VAT and payroll debts deferred while business is unable to trade / subject to restricted trading due to C-19 and debts for an additional two months after business resumes ‘normal’ trading
 - Scheme applies to amounts deferred from March 2020
 - Once ‘normal’ trading resumes, the “parked” debts will be warehoused for 12 months at 0% interest, thereafter a rate of 3% per annum will apply until the outstanding debt is fully paid
 - Filing of all relevant returns is crucial to access the Scheme - if a best estimate return was filed for any period, the correct return must be filed before the end of the suspended / restricted trading period
 - Availing of the Scheme will not affect Tax Clearance and will not impact the issuing of tax refunds / repayments
- Restart grant for micro and small businesses
 - Grant of up to €10k based on waiver / rebate of rates paid in 2019

Supports announced on 2 May 2020

- C-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme for SMEs (pending new legislation)
 - A €2bn fund to support lending to SMEs for terms ranging from 3 months to 6 years at below market interest rates
- €2bn Pandemic Stabilisation & Recovery Fund within the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund for medium and large enterprises on commercial terms

Loan finance schemes*

*Certain sectors are excluded from applying for finance under specific finance schemes

Loan Finance Schemes

Loan finance scheme	Purpose	Loan amount & key terms	Available to	Key conditions
COVID-19 Business Loan - Microfinance Ireland (MFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund working capital • Implement business changes resulting from COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €5k - €50k (unsecured) • Up to 3 year term (or up to 5 years in certain circumstances) • 0% interest & no repayments for first 6 months • Interest rate of 4.5% or 5.5% • No penalty for early repayment 	Sole traders, partnerships & companies with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 10 full time employees • Turnover of up to €2m • Balance Sheet does not exceed €2m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of at least 15% in actual / projected turnover / profit due to Covid-19; and • <u>Having difficulty sourcing finance from commercial lenders</u>
Sustaining Enterprise Fund for Small Enterprise - Enterprise Ireland (EI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide short term working capital injection to support business continuity and strengthen the ability of smaller companies to return to growth and be trading strongly in 3 years time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repayable advance of €25k - €50k • 4% annual administration fee • Repayment by end of year 5 (with 3 year grace period) on successful achievement of the project objective 	Manufacturing & internationally traded service companies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With more than 10 employees • Turnover in most recent financial statements not exceeding €5m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15% reduction in actual / projected turnover / profit due to C-19; • Business Continuity Project plan required; and • <u>Must be engaged with bank on financing needs to sustain the business through the short and medium term</u>

Loan Finance Schemes

Loan finance scheme	Purpose	Loan amount & key terms	Available to	Key conditions
Sustaining Enterprise Fund - Enterprise Ireland (EI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last resort liquidity funding Support implementation of business sustainment plan to stabilise the business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repayable advance of up to €800k 4% annual administration fee Repayment by end of year 5 (with 3 year grace period) subject to the project objectives being achieved 	<p>Companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 10+ full time employees Operating in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negatively impacted by COVID-19; and Reduction of at least 15% in actual / projected turnover / profit OR a significant increase in costs due to Covid-19; and <u>Only available where all SBCI/bank options fully exhausted</u>
Covid-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme - Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide working capital / finance business changes due to COVID-19 or innovation via loan through AIB, Bank Of Ireland or Ulster Bank Loan cannot be used to refinance undertakings in difficulty or refinance existing debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €25k - €1.5m (unsecured up to €500k) 1 to 3 year term Max interest rate of 4% Optional interest-only repayment period may be available at the start of the loan 	<p>Micro & SMEs including sole traders, partnerships & companies who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have less than 250 employees; Turnover up to €50m or Balance Sheet up to €43m <p>Small MidCaps with less than 500 employees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turnover / profit negatively impacted by min of 15% due to Covid-19; and The business meets one of 11 innovation criteria; and Eligibility letter has been obtained from the SBCI

Loan Finance Schemes

Loan finance scheme	Purpose	Loan amount & key terms	Available to	Key conditions
Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) - Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide working capital or finance business changes for SMEs impacted by COVID-19 and unable to borrow from their bank • Provides 80% guarantee to participating finance providers (currently AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €10k - €1m • Up to 7 year term • Max 2% annual Government premium in addition to interest rate / fee charged by bank – government premium currently 0.5% p.a. • 3 – 6 month interest-only payment period may be available 	Micro & SMEs including sole traders, partnerships & companies who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have less than 250 employees; • Turnover of up to €50m (or a Balance Sheet of up to €43m) • In the lender’s opinion has a viable business proposal and can repay the facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit normal borrowing request to AIB, BOI and / or Ulster Bank with supporting documentation • Bank may decide that application is viable but borrower must obtain guarantee under the CGS, at which point borrower completes CGS application form
Future Growth Loan Scheme - Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide longer-term loans to businesses impacted by COVID-19 • Investment in plant & machinery, R&D, business expansion, premises improvement, process innovation or people/systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €100k - €3m (unsecured up to €500k) • Initial max interest rate of 3.5% or 4.5% depending on loan amount • 8 to 10 year term • Optional interest-only repayments may be available at start of loan 	Micro & SMEs including sole traders, partnerships & companies who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have less than 250 employees; • Turnover of up to €50m or Balance Sheet up to €43m Small MidCaps with less than 500 employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility letter must first be obtained from the SBCI • The eligibility letter must be provided to the participating finance provider (AIB, BOI, Ulster Bank & KBC) with the loan application

Wage supports - self-employed & employees

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Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) – overview

- TWSS is operated by the Revenue Commissioners & expected to run for 12 weeks from 26 March 2020
- This subsidy toward an employee's wages should help employers to keep employees on the payroll irrespective of whether employees have been temporarily laid off or their pay / hours are reduced
- There are 2 phases to the TWSS:
 - Phase 1 (transition phase) – 26 March to 3 May 2020 – overpayments to employers may arise and will be offset against future subsidy payments from Revenue or will need to be repaid to Revenue
 - Phase 2 (operational phase) – from 4 May 2020 – subsidies paid to employers by Revenue should reflect what is payable to the employee

Further details of the subsidies payable under phase 2 are set out on later slides

- Register for the scheme via My Enquiries on ROS & ensure refund bank details are specified on ROS
- The subsidy is paid to the employee free of tax, EE PRSI & USC as part of their wage packet along with any employer top up – the subsidy should be separately shown on the employee's payslip
- Employer is not obliged to make top up payments where they are not in a position to do so, but if possible is encouraged to maintain the employee's net income as close as possible to normal net income – top up payments are subject to tax & USC as normal
- Class J9 PRSI applies to subsidy and any top-up payment – no EE PRSI, ER PRSI of 0.5%

Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme – phase 2 (operational phase) – from 4 May 2020

Employee's ARNWP* for Jan & Feb 2020	Subsidy value
up to €412 per week (c. €24.4k gross)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% of the employee's ARNWP Tapering won't apply to employer top-up in excess of 15% of previous pay in order to bring the employee's pay to €350 per week
€412.01 - €500 per week (c. €24.4k - €31k gross)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €350 flat rate subsidy
€500.01 - €586 per week (c. €31k - €38k gross)	Lower of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €410; or 70% of the employee's ARNWP
Greater than €586.01 per week (c. €31k gross)	Subsidy is subject to tiered approach & tapering, subsidy capped at €350 – see next slide for further details

- *ARNWP – “Average Revenue Net Weekly Pay” - this is computed by Revenue using the Jan / Feb 2020 payroll figures (“base period”) - TWSS sets out the specific rules to calculate ARNWP
- New subsidy rates and tapering are expected to apply for payroll submissions with pay dates on / after 4 May 2020
- Tapering applies to ensure that no employee would be better off under the scheme – tapering applies where:
Gross pay paid by the employer in the current period + subsidy > ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020
- Tapering is calculated as follows: ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020 less amount paid by the employer

Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme – phase 2 (operational phase) – from 4 May 2020

Tiered approach & tapering apply to employees with ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020 in excess of €586

Rules also apply to employees whose ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020 exceeded €960 where their gross salary has since fallen below €76k

Information regarding phase 2 is based on our understanding of the announcements made to date – detailed guidance on the new rules has not yet been issued by Revenue

Gross amount paid by employer in current period	Subsidy value
Over 80% of employee’s ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020	No subsidy payable
Between 60% and 80% of employee’s ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020	Up to €205 per week*
Up to 60% of employee’s ARNWP for Jan / Feb 2020	Up to €350 per week*

*Subject to tapering – see previous slide for further information on tapering

Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

- Scheme operated by Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Available to **employees (full and part time)** who have lost their job / been temporarily laid off on / after 13 March 2020 due to COVID-19
- Available to the **self-employed** whose trading income has ceased due to COVID-19
- With effect from 24 March 2020, flat rate payment of €350 per week (previously €203)
- Employers who are not in a position to retain staff on their payroll should advise those employees to apply for the Covid-19 pandemic unemployment payment.
- Employees are not eligible for this payment if their employer has registered them on the TWSS (see above).
- Applying for the payment:
 - Online at mywelfare.ie using a basic MyGovID account; or
 - Request paper form at forms@welfare.ie (or download form) and post to Freepost, PO Box 12896, Dublin 1
- Current position – payment taxable under Schedule D, Case IV (may ultimately be taxable under Schedule E – position currently under review)
- Short term work support is a separate support available where a business needs to reduce employee's hours / days

Business grants*

*Various restrictions apply to certain grants & they may not be open to all sectors

Business Grants

Grant	Value & purpose	Other key information
Business Continuity Voucher - LEOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher up to €2.5k Towards third party consultancy fees for activities such as developing business plans, assessing financial needs & options, applying for emergency financial support & implementing remote working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to sole traders, partnerships & companies employing up to 50 people E-mail application form* to your LEO <p>*application form available on LEO website</p>
Covid-19 Business Financial Planning Grant - EI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant equal to 100% of fees up to €5k Towards cost of engaging an external approved financial consultant to prepare a financial plan, including to support finance applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to EI, Údarás na Gaeltachta & IDA clients and non-EI manufacturing or internationally traded services companies with 10+ full time employees Contact EI Development Advisor or Covid-19 Business Response Unit at EI
LEAN for Micro - LEOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help implement new remote working and physical distancing guidelines; or Engage LEAN Expert to introduce lean principles, undertake cost savings project and assist in benchmarking performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to LEO clients Contact LEO for more information
Lean Business Continuity Voucher - EI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher up to €2.5k For management advice and /or training to support business during COVID-19 including crisis response / sustaining operations / planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to small, medium & large client companies of EI or Údarás na Gaeltachta (including HPSUs) Apply online with EI

Business Grants

Grant	Value & purpose	Other key information
Trading Online Voucher Scheme - LEOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voucher up to €2.5k Business co-funding of 10% required Improve online trading, boost sales, reach new markets Permitted for subscription to online retail platform, to add payment facilities / booking systems & develop new apps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to business with up to 10 employees Business which previously availed of scheme can apply again where upgrades are required Contact LEO for more information
Covid-19 Online Retail Scheme - EI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant of up to 80% of project cost, capped at €40k Minimum project cost of €12.5k applies (grant of €10k) Allow indigenous retailers to enhance online offering to facilitate an increase in customers and develop more resilient business both online and offline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to Irish retailers with at least 10 full time employees on / before 29 Feb 2020 With potential to sustain / create jobs, generate growth online and possess ambition to internationalise Application deadline: 3pm on 27 May 2020
Key Manager Grant - EI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial funding towards hiring full / part-time manager with critical skills to support the business & future growth Examples of positions supportable by grant - Chief Financial Officer, Chief Technical Officer, R&D Manager, Production Manager 	<p>Available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small & medium established EI clients with 10+ employees; Companies that have been generating sales for at least 2 years Certain HPSUs <p>Manager must fill a new role based in Ireland Apply online through EI</p>
Covid-19 Act On Supports - EI	Advice, support and access to external consultants on strategic sourcing, transport & logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact EI for more information

Business Grants

Grant	Value & purpose	Other key information
Strategic Consultancy Grant - EI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant up to 50% of cost of hiring consultant Grant capped at €35k To develop / implement strategic initiatives 	<p>Available to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> manufacturing / internationally traded services SME company employing 10-249 people; and Companies not eligible to receive support applied for from An Bord Bia / An Bord Iascaigh Mhara <p>Apply online through EI</p>
Business Process Improvement Grant - EI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant up to 50% of eligible costs incurred, subject to max grant of between €35k and €50k, depending on project Support efficiency & business process improvements including Lean Plus, e-Marketing & GreenPlus assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to EI clients / potential clients who have been trading for at least 5 years and are engaged in manufacturing or eligible internationally traded services. Apply online through EI
LEO & EI mentoring Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free mentoring provided by LEOs to help clients develop strategies to deal with COVID-19 Grant support from EI, capped at €1,750 to work with a mentor who will help with business growth including overcoming growth obstacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEO mentor - available to LEO clients - contact LEO for more information EI mentor grant – open to EI clients who are manufacturing or internationally traded services companies employing 10 - 249 people & HPSUs
Rapid Response Research and Innovation Funding - SFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFI, EI & the IDA launched joint rapid response call to support the development of innovative solutions to problems arising from COVID-19 crisis Solution must be operational and fully deployed within 6 months of project start. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact covid19@sfi.ie for further information <u>Scheme is paused from 1pm on 1 May 2020</u>

Business Grants

Grant	Value & purpose	Other key information
Miscellaneous LEO grants	Grants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Priming • Business Expansion • Feasibility Study • Technical Assistance for Micro-Exporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to LEO clients and potential start-ups that meet eligibility criteria (such as employing up to 10 people with the potential for growth and job creation) • Contact LEO for more information
Ireland Performs – Culture Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant of €1k to support professional artists and enable the live presentation of their work on online platforms • Initially running for 4 weeks from 3 April 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application forms available online from Culture Ireland • Application forms should be submitted to showcases@cultureireland.gov.ie

Other supports

Other supports

- Banks & other lenders – engage with your bank manager
 - Repayment breaks of up to 6 months may be available on loans following an agreement by members of the Banking & Payments Federation Ireland to extend current breaks by a further 3 months
 - Other financial supports are being offered by the main banks
- Revenue Commissioners – early engagement with Revenue crucial, especially where tax payment difficulties arise
 - Various measures available to assist businesses e.g. 9 month extension to the deadline within which close companies are required to make distributions to avoid a surcharge can be requested in certain cases, phased payment arrangements, prioritising tax repayments / refunds, interim refunds of PSWT, early payment of 2020 instalments of excess R&D credits
 - Automatic suspension of interest on late payment of Jan / Feb, Mar / Apr & May / Jun 2020 VAT and Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Jun 2020 ER PAYE/PRSI for SMEs (essentially, business with turnover less than €3m not dealt with by either Revenue’s Large Corporates Division or Medium Enterprises Division). Larger businesses can request the suspension of interest on late payments of VAT and payroll debts.
 - Late filing of CT returns (including iXBRL accounts where applicable) for accounting periods ending June 2019 onwards and due on / after 23 March 2020 – late filing surcharges suspended and, subject to certain conditions, the normal restrictions to certain reliefs such as loss relief may not be applied
- CRO – annual returns due to be filed from 19 March 2020 - deemed to have been filed on time if all elements filed by 30 June 2020

Other supports

- Local authorities – option may be available to certain businesses to defer commercial rates
- Enterprise Ireland – continuing to provide various existing supports (i.e. not C-19 specific) to certain businesses including funding for innovation, diversification and restructuring
- Other industry specific bodies such as Bord Bia, Fáilte Ireland & Screen Ireland are offering targeted supports
- Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation – Business Support Call Centre – providing advice on Government supports - T: +353 1 631 2002 | E: infobusinesssupport@dbei.gov.ie
- Training & development – various organisations are providing free training webinars on a variety of topics, including:
 - ISME in conjunction with Griffith College - Restart Your Business, Rethink Your Strategy - free online workshops available on Griffith College course page
 - Participants who use the online workshops / webinars (live or recordings) to create a business development plan have the opportunity to progress to a nationally accredited Certificate in SME Management at no cost – for more information contact Griffith College
 - Local Enterprise Office – contact LEO for access to various free webinars
 - Enterprise Ireland – webinars available on EI eiLearn Online Learning Platform
 - Irish Exporters Association – webinars available on C-19 webpage
 - Small Firms Association – webinars available on C-19 webpage
 - Boost with Facebook business webinars – available online

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Disclaimer

- The information contained in this document is based on our understanding of the current Government supports available in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and has been prepared based on information currently available in relation to those supports. However, due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, supports and the mechanics surrounding them are continually evolving and thus this document may no longer reflect the most up to date position with regard to the various supports.
- This document is only intended to provide a high level guide on some of the key supports available to businesses in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and is not exhaustive, nor does it purport to be a comprehensive guide on the available supports.
- The information contained in this document does not constitute financial and / or tax advice and, accordingly, no reliance should be placed on this information – professional advice should always be sought in relation to the supports set out in this document and the most up to date position on those supports.

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