



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

LUDGATE HUB



Oifig
Fiontair
Áitiúil

Local
Enterprise
Office

LEO Financial Supports

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3rd November 2020

**Local Enterprise Office –
Cork North & West**

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Local Enterprise Office



Ireland's EU Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014 - 2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Helping your Business Respond to Covid-19

National Local Enterprise Office

Web site - Huge Array of Resources



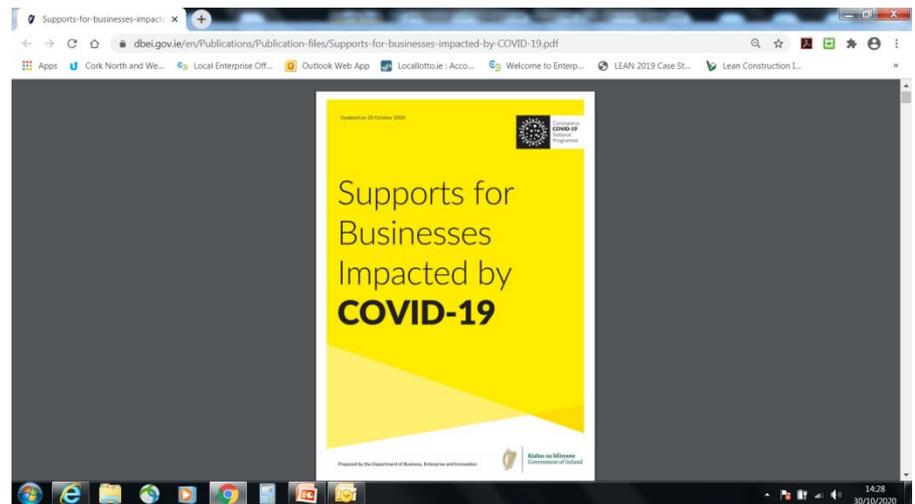
Government Booklet –

Supports for Business

updated by the Government

Regularly.

www.gov.ie



LEO Supports - Trading Online Vouchers



- Grant aid of up to **90%** or up to **€2,500** to facilitate any business to engage in online trading.
- Development of E-Commerce Websites / Digital Marketing Initiatives / Social Media Integration / Branding, Logos development etc

Eligibility

- Limited or no e-commerce presence
- Previous voucher recipients (prior to 8th April 2020) may apply for a second voucher - must partake in webinar - within the past 9 months.
- Must have no more than 10 employees or less than €2m in turnover;
- Must be trading for **at least 6 months** and be located in the region of the local enterprise office to whom they are applying.
- Must attend a TOV Webinar & Apply online / Application Form & Get 3 quotes.
- **Next webinar 19/11/2020 – book on LEO web site**

MICRO FINANCE LOANS

New COVID 19 Scheme

Micro-enterprises employing less than 10, a turnover of less than €2 million per annum, who are finding it difficult to access finance through banks and other commercial lenders and experiencing a negative impact of a minimum of 15% turnover/profit in the business.

New changes since August: Up to €25,000 available with Zero repayments and Zero Interest for first 6 months and an additional 6 months interest-free T&C apply*

Register at : <https://microfinanceireland.ie/loan-packages-2/covid19/>

- ✓ Maximum loan amount is €25,000 for all applicants (NEW)
- ✓ First 6 months – interest free and zero repayments (No change)
- ✓ Interest Rate – 4.5% APR for LEO Applications and 5.5% APR for Direct Applications (No change)
- ✓ Capital & Interest Repayments commence in Month 7 (No change)
- ✓ *Government Rebate for interest paid in Months 7 – 12 of loan (making an equivalent of 12 months interest free), subject to all loan repayments being made in months 7-12 of the loan.
- ✓ This rebate will be paid automatically to business bank account in Month 13 of the loan (NEW)



Grant towards : Adaptation and reconfiguration costs of buildings and room layouts to allow for physical distancing and safe working. Examples : internal and external signage, queuing system materials, screens and barriers, sanitiser stations, sinks, waste disposal areas; personal protective equipment, sterilisation equipment, additional cleaning equipment, waste disposal equipment, paper towel dispensers;

Open to operating businesses who:

- ✓ Have suffered a 30% reduction in turnover due to COVID-19 restrictions
- ✓ *Employed between 2 and 10 full-time employees (or full-time equivalents) on their payroll at the 29th February 2020 and an annual turnover of less than €2 million as per the latest set of annual accounts;*
- ✓ *Are not eligible for the COVID-19 Restart/Restart Plus Grant or similar COVID-19 business restart grants from other government departments.*
- ✓ Grants of a minimum of €500 to a maximum €1,000 in respect of vouched expenditure. Vouched expenditure from the 14th September 2020 to the 30th November 2020. Administered by the LEO.
- ✓ Apply online at

Must have a commercial focus excludes those involved in *primary agricultural, fishery or aquaculture, coal and steel sectors; or non-commercial organisations such as community, charity, arts.*



LEO Financial Supports

Who can we fund?

- For existing companies / potential start ups that meet the eligibility criteria.
- Manufacturing / internationally tradable services / Innovative local /National services that are not in direct competition locally
- Priming Grants (less than 18 months) / Business Expansion Grants (More than 18 months) - up to **€50,000** may be approved locally.
- Feasibility Study Grants: – maximum **€15,000** in Direct Aid.
- *Will consider this towards the development of innovative product / service ideas not already in the marketplace, where the promoter has already conducted extensive market research into the idea, but assistance is required to move the concept nearer to market readiness. (also Consider Innovation Vouchers for this)*

LEO Financial Supports

No Refundable Aid any more – 50% grant

PRIMING / BUSINESS EXPANSION GRANTS (up to €50k)

We can consider up to 50% grant towards costs associated with :

- Capital equipment
- Hardware, software & development costs
- Work shop / Unit fit out
- Salary grants (**€7,500 - €15,000** towards a full time position based in Cork North & West)
- Marketing & Consultancy costs

Feasibility (max of €15,000)

- Market Research Costs – to develop the business proposition
- Consultancy Costs – to include design fees, architect fees and legal fees
- Technical Development/Prototype/Innovation – to include prototype development, innovative design, research costs and third-level college consultancy
- Miscellaneous Costs



INCOME SUPPORTS – mywelfare.ie

Income supports

The COVID-19 Income Support Scheme provides financial support to Irish workers and businesses affected by the crisis.

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme: The new [Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme \(EWSS\)](#), provides a flat-rate subsidy to qualifying employers based on the numbers of eligible employees on the employer's payroll. The EWSS, operated by Revenue, has replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme and will run until 31 March 2021.

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment: The [Pandemic Unemployment Payment](#) is available to all employees and the self-employed who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Apply through mywelfare.ie](#)

Restart Grant Plus (following Restart grant 1)



CLOSED: 31/10/2020: The **Restart Grant Plus** provides direct grant aid to businesses with up to 250 employees to help them with the costs associated with reopening and reemploying workers following COVID-19 closures. The minimum grant is €4,000 and the maximum grant is €25,000 with top-up payments available in certain circumstances.

Businesses that accessed funding through the previous round of the scheme are eligible for a top-up payment to a total combined value of the revised maximum grant level.

Apply

Applications for the Restart PLUS Grant can be made online at www.YourCouncil.ie.

Dedicated helpline on [\(021\) 4208000](tel:0214208000) and Email RestartFund@CorkCoCo.ie.

Commercial rates waiver: With limited exceptions, all businesses will be granted a waiver to 31 December 2020.





40% Wet Pub Top Up – Open since October 2020

Restart Grant Plus (40% Top Up): Open

✓ Those businesses remaining closed and planning their reopening can now receive a minimum of €5,600 and a maximum of €35,000 under the Restart Grant Plus. This can be used to help additional expense and adaptations associated with reopening when the time comes - **Applications are through the Local Authorities.**

✓ waiver of court fees and associated excise and stamp duties relating to the renewal of pub and other liquor licences in 2020

✓ waiver of excise duty on on-trade liquor licences on renewal in 2020

✓ These measures are in addition to the existing Restart Grant Plus, Tourism Adaptation Fund, the wage subsidy scheme, commercial rates waiver, liquidity supports and tax measures (such as warehousing of tax debt and reduction in VAT).

✓ **(Level 3 lockdown 30% Top UP)** - Open to those who received the Restart Plus Grant



- The **Restart Grant Plus for B&Bs** will be €4,000 for non-rated B&Bs i.e. B&B businesses not on the Local Authority rates system. The grant allocation will assist B&B owners with the costs of re-opening and operating their businesses.
- B&Bs that are on the rates system can apply to their Local Authority for the equivalent of their 2019 rates bill, excluding arrears, subject to a minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum of €25,000.
- Application forms can only be submitted online via the **Fáilte Ireland Trade Portal**.
The application form for Phase 1 will be available from **14 September to 28 October 2020**.
- Applications for **B&Bs not affiliated with Fáilte Ireland** or B&B Ireland **opened on 19 October until 30 November**.

Enterprise Support Grant

The **Enterprise Support Grant** for businesses impacted by COVID-19 is available for eligible self-employed people who close their COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment on or 18 May 2020.

This will provide business owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to restart their business which was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to qualify

The Grant will be awarded to self-employed people who:

- ✓ are tax and PRSI compliant
- ✓ are **not liable** for commercial rates (man with the van scenario)
- ✓ **have been** in receipt of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment and have closed their claim on or after 18 May 2020
- ✓ have reopened their business which was closed due to the pandemic
- ✓ employ less than 10 people & an annual turnover of less than €1 million
- ✓ are not eligible for the COVID-19 Business Restart Grant or similar COVID-19 business restart grants from other government departments
- ✓ can produce VAT receipts/invoices in respect of business restart costs and expenses claimed, if requested to do so by the department

✓ This is a Fund to support **tourism and hospitality businesses** who have incurred adaptation costs in order to re-open safely in line with the Fáilte Ireland *Guidelines for Re-Opening*.

Grants available from €500 to €15,000 depending on the type of business/expenditure.

▪ **Strand A Funding for Capital Costs** associated with Visitor Premises which contributes funding to businesses which have incurred capital costs in the adaptation of their premises for re-opening to visitors/customers in line with the Fáilte Ireland Guidelines for Re-Opening.

▪ **Strand B Funding for Consumables** which contributes funding to businesses which do not have significant visitor facing premises and/or only have expenditure on COVID-related consumables, particularly the sanitisation of equipment and safety gear, in accordance with the Fáilte Ireland Guidelines for Re-Opening. This strand is open to activity and boat tour operators and any accommodation providers which have not incurred any capital costs.

Eligible businesses include:

- ✓ Accommodation listed on Fáilte Ireland's Statutory Accommodation Register 2020 or Non-Statutory Accommodation Listing 2020*
- ✓ Pubs/ bars with a Publican's Licence (opening under the Government's *Roadmap for Re-opening Society and Business*)
- ✓ Restaurants or cafés with a Wine Retailer's On-Licence or a Special Restaurant Licence
- ✓ Visitor attractions , Activity operators , Adventure centres, Cruise hire companies, Boat tour operators, Tourism equestrian centres , Tourism golf clubhouses, Tourism wellness centres
- ✓ It is intended that the grant is **a contribution** towards expenditure incurred by a tourism business, and it is not expected to cover the entirety of the re-opening costs incurred.
- ✓ Businesses will be asked to declare the total amount of eligible expenditure incurred in the application form.
- ✓ Application forms can only be submitted online via the [Fáilte Ireland Trade Portal](#)



COACH TOURISM BUSINESS CONTINUITY SCHEME



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Local Enterprise Office

- ✓ The **Coach Tourism Business Continuity Scheme** is designed to assist these businesses which have suffered losses as a result of COVID-19.
- ✓ The scheme provides a contribution to coach tourism provider's ongoing costs and positions them to continue operating into 2021 and beyond. Your vehicles will need to have been registered and qualify for a VAT 71 repayment on or after 1st July 2013 and you will be required to provide supporting documentation.

The closing date for receipt of applications from interested operators is **5 November 2020**.

- ✓ Application forms can only be submitted online via the [Fáilte Ireland Trade Portal](#)



NEW: COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)

Conditions

- ✓ Open to companies and self-employed individuals operating a business.
- ✓ Business itself has to be directly impacted by Govt. imposed restrictions that directly prohibit or restrict customer access to their premises
- ✓ A self- assessment of 75% disruption in turnover is required (decreased from 80% on 20 October 2020)
- ✓ Cash payment equal to 10% of the average weekly value of the 2019 business's turnover up to €20,000 and 5% thereafter, subject to a max. weekly payment of €5,000, equivalent to the restricted period. Also open to new businesses started in 2020.
- ✓ Payments will be made when Level 3 restrictions or higher are in place in line with the Plan for Living with COVID-19
- ✓ The Scheme will run from 13 October 2020 until 31 March 2021 by logging onto **ROS on Revenue** –

Claims open from Mid November.

Further info

- Go to the Links provided
- Consult with your Accountant
- Book a business advice session with the LEO

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/corknorthandwest>

Check our websites for useful webinars coming up

- Consult your industry representative Body
- Consult your relevant Advisory Agency

Coronavirus
COVID-19
Business Support Call Centre
Call: +353 1 631 2002
Email: infobusinesssupport@dbei.gov.ie

UP TO DATE INFO:

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Supports-for-businesses-COVID-19.html>