

Get support to start your business

From [Department of Social Protection](#)

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If you are new to the world of self-employment or are looking to build your business from scratch, [Intreo](#) is a great place to start. [Intreo \(the Public Employment Services\)](#) offers you support and financial advice and will help to point you in the right direction.

Getting your business started

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance

The [Back to Work Enterprise Allowance](#) (BTWEA) is available to help you to become self-employed or start your own new business if you are on certain social welfare payments.

If you are getting the [COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment](#) (PUP) and you want to access the this scheme, you can do this by transferring to [Jobseeker's Allowance](#).

The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance allows you to keep the following portion of your current social welfare payment for 2 years:

- 100% for the first year
- 75% for the second year

Short-Term Enterprise Allowance

The [Short-Term Enterprise Allowance](#) (STEA) supports you if you have lost your job and want to start your own business. This support is available to COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) recipients who transfer to a [Jobseeker's Benefit](#) payment.

The Short-Term Enterprise Allowance is paid instead of your Jobseeker's Benefit for a maximum of 9 months. It ends when your entitlement to Jobseeker's Benefit ends (that is, at either 6 or 9 months).

Enterprise Support Grant

The [Enterprise Support Grant](#) (ESG) provides financial support for people who have set up a new business and are currently receiving income support under [Back to Work Enterprise Allowance](#) (BTWEA) or [Short-Term Enterprise Allowance](#) (STEA).

The grant helps with the costs incurred when setting up a new business.

Local Development Company

[Your Local Development Company \(LDC\)](#) can also offer support and advice in starting a business, including mentoring.

Intreo supports for the self-employed

- [COVID-19 Part-Time Job Incentive for the Self-Employed](#)
- [Jobseeker's Benefit for the Self-Employed](#)
- [Social Welfare entitlements for the self-employed](#)
- [Supports for self-employed individuals and smaller enterprises impacted by COVID-19](#)

Other government resources, information and supports

- [Department of Trade, Enterprise and Employment](#)
- [Government supports for COVID-19 impacted businesses](#)
- [Local Enterprise Office supports](#)
- [Small Business Loans from Microfinance Ireland](#)
- [Enterprise Ireland supports](#)

Contact your local Intreo for advice

You can find out more information by contacting [your local Intreo Centre](#).

In line with public health guidelines we suggest that you make contact by email or telephone to minimise visits to Intreo Centres.