



Offaly Local Development Company

Support and Advice for Enterprise and Employment during COVID - 19 (Coronavirus)

In this difficult and challenging time, Offaly Local Development Company's priority is to continue to support our business clients; social enterprise clients; our community supports; and those that have become under or unemployed. Our team remains fully operational as we continue to work with the community, enterprise clients and our stakeholders to develop practical responses. We ask that you contact us if you need any support and we will guide and advise as best possible.

Offaly Local Development Company are continually observing and monitoring updates in relation to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. The information we will provide will be continuously reviewed and updated to reflect the very latest information available.

If you need **employment related advice or supports** please contact: Birr Job Club on birrjobclub@offalyldc.ie / 087 2802919 or Tullamore Job Club on tullamorejobclub@offalyldc.ie / 087 2904333.

If you need **business related advice or supports** please contact: Aileen Duffy, Business Development Coordinator aduffy@offalyldc.ie or Roisin Lennon rlennon@offalyldc.ie (087 9699998)

Some points of information:

You are small business and have lost work due to COVID -19

- If you have lost work due to a downturn in economic activity caused by COVID-19 you can apply for the new [COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment](#). This new payment quickly delivers income support to the unemployed (be they self-employed or employees) for a 6-week period.
- It is designed to provide income security for a period during which you can apply for a full Jobseekers payment (and receive any additional entitlements backdated). You can apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment by filling in a one page application and returning FREEPOST PO BOX 12896 Dublin 1. You do not need to visit an Intreo Centre to apply.

Your business is continuing to trade in this very difficult time.

Offaly Local Development is continuing to provide essential practical support to our business clients in the current environment. We know that we are in unknown territory however OLDC have compiled strategy to support small businesses in Offaly at this time. This includes:

- Direct Contact with our clients
- Case by case analysis of what type of advice / support your business requires.
- Evaluation of those requirements to determine what practical individual / collective supports we can provide.

This is our immediate action and will be followed up by longer term actions that will be designed to support the continued operation of businesses during and after this crisis. We will be providing updates regularly on our website, social media and email.



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Your employment has been directly affected by COVID-19

1. You have been temporarily laid-off

Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment has been introduced for anyone whose employer is unable to continue to pay them. The payment is available to all employees and the self-employed who have lost employment due to the pandemic. You will get a weekly payment for up to 6 weeks (as applicable). To receive the payment follow these steps;

1. Apply for the [COVID-19 Unemployment payment](#).
2. Post it to FREEPOST PO BOX 12896 Dublin 1.
3. Apply for [Jobseekers](#) within 6 weeks to ensure you continue to receive a payment (if applicable) after the emergency payment has finished.

Once this normal Jobseekers claim is subsequently received, the Department will process these claims and reconcile payments at that time. This will involve backdating increased payments for certain customers. Important You DO NOT NEED to go to the Intreo Centre. You can apply for Jobseekers support through the online portal www.MyWelfare.ie, (you will need a Public Service Card); or phone them on 1890 800 024 or 01 2481398 and they will send you the relevant application form for the new payment.

2. Your working week has been reduced

Short-time Work Support is available under Jobseeker's Benefit and is an income support payment for employees who have been temporarily placed on a shorter working week, due to business challenges affecting their employment.

The payment is made in respect of the employee's regular salary for the days that they are no longer working. For example, where an employee's working week has been reduced from a five-day work pattern to a three-day work pattern, they can receive Short-time Work Support for the other two days.

Employees must work 3 days per week or less to qualify, having previously been employed on a full time basis.

[Jobseeker's application form \(UP1\)](#)

[Short-time Work Support form \(UP14 STWS\)](#) which must be completed by the employer to confirm the change in the employee's work pattern. Please contact me directly on my contact details below to facilitate this. The quickest way to apply for Jobseeker's Benefit is through www.myWelfare.ie. You must have a verified MyGovID to use this service.



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For any of the welfare supports listed above you will need to set up a MyGovId

To set up a MyGovId account please visit mygovid.ie and select 'create an account now'. You will need your name and your email address to set up a basic account. Then you will have to verify your account. In order to verify your account, you will need a phone, your PPS number and your Public Services Card.