

# Helping your business respond to COVID-19

**Your Local Enterprise Office is here to help your business respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## How can we help?

**Business Continuity Vouchers**  
Apply for €2,500 in consultancy



The new Business Continuity Voucher is designed for businesses across every sector\* that employ up to 50 people.

The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs (at no cost to the company) and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the business challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal is to help companies make informed decisions about what immediate measures and remedial actions should be taken, to protect staff and sales.

**Notes:** \*The Business Continuity Voucher isn't suitable for clients of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta.

## COVID-19 Business Loans

First 6 months are interest & repayment free



### New low rate of 4.5% through the Local Enterprise Offices

The COVID-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland (MFI), in partnership with Local Enterprise Offices, is a Government-funded initiative to support small businesses. It's designed for micro-enterprises that are a) having difficulty accessing Bank finance and b) impacted, or may be impacted negatively, by COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of 15% or more in turnover or profit.

#### Loan Features:

- Business Loans of up to €50,000 are available for eligible micro-enterprises (ie businesses with less than 10 employees and up to €2m annual turnover) that are currently trading
- Loans may be used for working capital and required business changes as a result of COVID-19
- Loan terms are typically up to 3 years
- 6 months interest free and repayment free moratorium
- New low interest rate of 4.5%, if submitted through your Local Enterprise Office
- No fees or hidden costs with fixed repayments. No penalty for early repayment

Visit [LocalEnterprise.ie/Response](https://LocalEnterprise.ie/Response)

### Mentoring

*Advice and guidance is now free*



Under the Local Enterprise Office Mentor Programme, clients work with an experienced mentor to identify solutions to areas of exposure within their business.

With advice and guidance from their mentor, clients develop strategies that are more robust, which address issues and maximise potential opportunities when the COVID-19 crisis comes to an end.

Mentoring services are now free of charge.

### Trading Online Voucher Scheme

*Can you do more business online?*



#### Second voucher now available

Under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the expanded Trading Online Voucher Scheme helps small businesses with up to 10 employees to trade more online, boost sales and reach new markets.

There is up to €2,500 available through the Local Enterprise Offices, with co-funding of 10% from the business.

Training and further business supports are also provided and businesses that have already received a Trading Online Voucher can now apply for a second voucher, where upgrades are required.

Funding can be used towards adding payment facilities or booking systems to your website or developing new apps for your customers. The voucher can also be used towards subscriptions to low cost online retail platform solutions, to help companies quickly establish a retailing presence online.

**Notes:** For applications received from April 8th 2020 until September 30th 2020. Further eligibility, terms & conditions apply.

### Training and Webinars

*Upskill and network remotely, for free*



Local Enterprise Offices have moved training programmes, workshops and networking meet-ups online, covering areas such as cash management in a crisis, leading your business through COVID-19 and advice for employers impacted by the crisis. Training programmes are free of charge and places can be booked online, through your Local Enterprise Office.

### LEAN for Micro

*Become a Leaner business*



LEAN for Micro is available to LEO clients to help build resilience within small companies.

Under this programme, clients can avail of consultancy support with a LEAN Expert (a qualified practitioner), who will work with the company to introduce lean principles, undertake a specific cost savings project and assist the company in benchmarking its performance.

LEAN for Micro can also be used to help implement new remote working and physical distancing guidelines.

### LEO Financial Supports

*Grants for new and established businesses*



For existing companies and potential start-ups that meet eligibility criteria (such as employing 10 or fewer people with the potential for growth and job creation), Local Enterprise Offices can also offer financial supports to help manage current market challenges:

- Business Priming Grants\*\*
- Business Expansion Grants\*\*
- Feasibility Study Grants\*\*
- Technical Assistance for Micro-Exporters Grant\*\*

**Notes:** \*\*For LEO Financial Supports, further eligibility criteria apply.

There are 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities across the country. You'll find contact details for your nearest LEO at [LocalEnterprise.ie](https://www.localenterprise.ie)

