

Business Start-up (Priming) Grant

For Businesses 0-18 months of start-up

Terms & Conditions

Priming grants may be awarded to sole traders, partnerships or limited companies that fulfil the following criteria:

- The enterprise must not employ more than 10 people; In some cases, depending on certain criteria, businesses with 10 employees or more may be eligible, please contact the Local Enterprise Office for more information on eligibility.
- The enterprise must be established, registered and operate within the geographic location of the Local Enterprise Office Dublin City (Dublin 1-13, 17,20).
- The business must be trading (at least 3 months sales)
- The enterprise must clearly demonstrate potential for growth in domestic and/or export markets.
 - There must be at least 1 new full time job created as part of the grant application.*see below
 - Be engaged in manufacturing or an Internationally traded service (details of overseas customers to be included in application)
 - Innovative projects with export potential (Detail in your application)
 - Salary support may be offered to *unique* tourism services projects, focused predominantly on generating revenues from overseas visitors. It must be unique i.e. would not happen without our support and/or displace existing projects in the local economy
 - Be capable of attaining economic viability
 - Demonstrate a commercial market for your proposed product or service

- Have adequate overall finance available to the project (detail in your application how you will fund the business)
- Have the necessary management and technical skills
- NOT be an Enterprise Ireland client and not receiving Enterprise Ireland funding

Priority is given to enterprises which over time can develop into strong export entities and who over time will be eligible to access Enterprise Ireland supports.

*The new employee may be the Promoter/founder, provided no previous funding has been received towards Promoter salary or salary drawdown from business before submitting an application.

Eligible Costs:

The maximum Grant payable shall be 50% of the investment or €50,000 whichever is the lesser.

Expenditure may be considered under the following headings:

- Salary costs. The new employee may be the Promoter/founder.
- Capital items
- Consultancy costs
- Innovation costs
- Marketing costs

Grants over €50,000 shall be the exception and shall only apply in the case of projects that clearly demonstrate a potential to graduate to Enterprise Ireland and/or to export internationally.

Subject to the 50% limit, a maximum grant of €15,000 per full time job created shall apply in respect of any employment support granted.

All grants of a value greater than or equal to €50,000 or with a cumulative value of €100,000 over three years require Enterprise Ireland Approval.

Please Note

- You must meet the eligibility criteria. No exceptions will be made.
- You must complete the Business Support Request form. This step is necessary prior to formal application. This is to assess your readiness and eligibility for funding.
- A business that had availed of a Priming Grant will be ineligible to apply for a Business Expansion grant until 12 months after approval/drawdown date of Priming Grant whichever is the later except in cases of exceptional merit and where less than the maximum Priming Grant was drawn down, and subject to the provisions in respect of 'De Minimus state aid'.

Ineligible Projects

- Professional services, consultancy, retail and distribution
- Areas of enterprise which involve displacement of existing jobs or business e.g. Builders, Hairdressers, Cafes, Pubs, Hotels, General Printers, Construction, Trades, Cleaning Services, etc. Where there are a large number of operators within a sector, our independent evaluation committee has to have regard to the implications of grant aiding one or some, possibly putting the others at a competitive disadvantage.
- Conferences and Seminars
- Projects which are contrary to public policy
- Duplication of support for projects which would be eligible for assistance from other State Agencies of EU funded Operational Programmes
- Existing Firms which already have an established relationship with Enterprise Ireland or IDA. Please do not apply to the Local Enterprise Office Dublin City if you have an existing application for the same project under consideration by Enterprise Ireland
- Projects involving primary agricultural production
- Mobile assets, i.e. cars, motor vans, laptops, mobile machinery etc.
- Projects deemed to be capable of proceeding without our support
- Projects essentially comprising importation and distribution

PLEASE NOTE

- Any expenditure incurred, prior to receipt of application form, will not be eligible for grant support.
- The grant aid is considered to not give rise to unacceptable/ineligible business activities or deadweight (where the project would have proceeded anyway)
- The size or proposed size of the enterprise. It's important for applicants to consider the linked companies rule when determining if they qualify for a LEO grant. This rule requires applicants to include the data from any partner or linked enterprises when calculating their employee numbers and financial thresholds. This means that if a business is part of a larger group, it must account for the employees and financial figures of the entire group, not just the individual entity. Here's a simple breakdown:

Autonomous Enterprise: If your business is totally independent or has one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25%), you use the figures solely from your business.

Partner Enterprise: If your business holds at least 25%, but no more than 50%, of another enterprise, or another enterprise holds at least 25%, but no more than 50%, of your business, you must add a proportion of the other enterprise's figures to your own.

Linked Enterprise: If your business holds more than 50% of another enterprise or another enterprise holds more than 50% of your business, you must add 100% of the other enterprise's figures to your own. The intention of this EU regulation is to ensure that the SME status reflects the economic power of the entire group of linked enterprises, preventing larger businesses from gaining undue advantage from SME support programs. It's a key part of maintaining fair competition and ensuring that support is directed towards genuinely small enterprises.