



Local Enterprise Office
LOUTH

READY TO ...

START-UP

FINANCE

GROW

IMPROVE

EXPAND

ACHIEVE

TAKE THE ROAD TO BUSINESS SUCCESS:

Your **Local Enterprise Office** is with you every step of your business journey!

FIND OUT MORE AT:
LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth



In partnership with





READY TO... START YOUR BUSINESS

Business Advice Clinics

to help develop your business idea

You have an idea, but don't know where to start. Make an appointment in our Business Advice Clinic to talk it through with one of our Business Advisors. Explore the idea, get clarity and examine next steps.

→ Discover more

Start Your Own Business Programme

The Start Your Own Business Programme is designed for people wishing to start their own business, or those who have recently started trading. It provides practical support, advice and guidance in a broad range of business areas to get you started.

→ Discover more

Training and Mentoring

The Local Enterprise Offices provide an extensive range of high-quality training supports, which are tailored for start-up and growing businesses. Visit the Training and Events page for details of training available throughout the year.

→ Discover more

In some circumstances, new business owners can be eligible for a **Feasibility Study Grant** to assist in researching market demand for a product or service and examining its sustainability. See "Ready To ... Finance your business" for more information.

ALWAYS AVAILABLE
MENTORING, TRAINING & BUSINESS ADVICE



READY TO... GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Business Advice Clinics

Local Enterprise Office Louth has a range of business advisory supports, from Finance to Marketing, Sales to Strategy and everything in between. Call us on **042 933 5457** or email **info@leo.louthcoco.ie** today to book an appointment in our Business Advice Clinic.

Mentoring

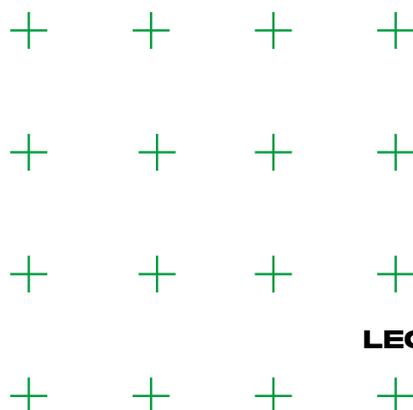
Mentoring matches up the knowledge, skills and insights of experienced business practitioners with small business owners who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance. Mentors contribute independent, informed observation and advice to aid decision making.

[→ Discover more](#)

E-commerce and online sales and marketing

The Trading Online Voucher scheme helps local businesses to develop a presence online. It is open to businesses trading for more than 6 months, employing 10 people or less and with turnover of under €2 million per annum. Vouchers are available to a maximum value of €2,500 or 50% of eligible expenditure and can be used for IT Consultation, development of an e-commerce website, software, online advertising, digital marketing strategy etc.

[→ Discover more](#)



Management Development

- to build your entrepreneurial and business skills

Developing your business skills is an essential part of growing a successful business. No one knows it all. Local Enterprise Office Louth offers a range of management development training programmes to support your development alongside your business.

→ Discover more

Financial Capability Development

This really practical and highly effective course has been designed to assist business owners to improve their understanding of their business' finances and to understand how financial information can be used to make strategic business decisions.

→ Discover more

New Frontiers

New Frontiers is Enterprise Ireland's national entrepreneur development programme for innovative, early-stage startups. The Regional Development Centre at DkIT is home to this programme in the North-East. Each year, New Frontiers funds 150 companies. If you believe that you are capable of building a sustainable new business, trading internationally, creating employment and generating revenue in your locality, apply now for a place on Ireland's largest entrepreneur development programme.

→ Apply Now

You're The Business Digitalisation Training Programme

A partnership between Local Enterprise Offices, Enterprise Ireland and Google, the "You're The Business" programme aims to accelerate Irish SME growth through

digitalisation. This free, online training scheme gives entrepreneurs access to live and on-demand training sessions, geared towards supporting companies at all stages of their digitalisation journey, including those at early stages right through to those more digitally-sophisticated businesses who are ready to export globally. The training consists of 3 modules to help you understand how to use digital platforms to get online, grow online and expand internationally.

→ Discover more

Sectoral Supports:

Talk to us about the sectoral supports offered by Local Enterprise Office Louth:

Craft Training and development supports for the craft sector are available throughout the year. Each year Local Enterprise Office Louth provides an opportunity for a selection of local craft businesses to attend Showcase, an international trade buyers event, hosted in the RDS.

Food Louth and Meath are home to a host of talented and passionate food and drinks producers. Together they work under the brand name "Boyne Valley Flavours". Local Enterprise Office Louth offers a range of specialist supports for food businesses including Food Academy for Food Start-Ups and Food Business Management Development Programme.

Clusters From the North East Engineering Cluster to the M1 FinTech corridor, a series of clusters are in operation in the Louth and North East Region to help support and promote excellence in learning, development and enterprise.



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READY TO... IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS

Drive efficiency and cost savings with Lean for Micro

Lean is about doing things quicker, better and saving costs. Lean strives to remove waste and to continually improve a company. Lean For Micro is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector.

[→ Discover more](#)

Reduce the carbon footprint of your business with Green for Micro

This free programme helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable. A green consultant will show you the small changes in your business that can have a big impact on your company - and the world around you.

[→ Discover more](#)

Use technology to improve business performance with Digital Start

Small businesses need to maximise every advantage - and implementing a digital strategy can give businesses a real edge. Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give Local Enterprise Office funded clients that digital edge. From optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

[→ Discover more](#)

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READY TO... FINANCE YOUR BUSINESS

Feasibility Study Grant

Feasibility Study Grants are designed to assist with researching market demand for a product or service and examining its sustainability. The grant can be used for market research, consultancy, costs associated with development, innovation, prototypes or labour for research.

[→ Discover more](#)

Priming Grant

A Priming Grant is a business start-up grant available to micro enterprises within the first 18 months of start-up. A Priming Grant may be paid to buy new equipment, help with direct business costs such as salary, rental costs, utilities, marketing, consultancy costs, etc.

[→ Discover more](#)

Business Expansion Grant

This grant is designed to assist the businesses in a growth phase, after the initial 18 month start-up period. Depending on eligibility, grants are between €80,000 - €150,000 with 50% repayable. A Business Expansion Grant may be paid to buy new equipment, help with direct business costs such as salary, rental costs, utilities, marketing and consultancy costs but cannot not be used to buy a building, land or mobile assets.

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Low interest business loans via Microfinance Ireland

Microfinance Ireland (MFI), is a not-for-profit lender, established to deliver the Government's Microenterprise Loan Fund. MFI works very closely with the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), providing low-interest loans of €2,000 to €25,000 to small businesses to assist start-up, growth and expansion. The team at the Local Enterprise Office can help with preparation of funding applications and a reduced interest rate is available to applications that are made via the Local Enterprise Office.

[→ Discover more](#)

Other financial supports are available for companies with specialist needs:

Unlock Overseas Market Opportunities with TAME

The Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters grant is available to help micro enterprises in Ireland unlock new overseas markets for their products and services, within Europe and beyond. This grant can cover up to 50% of qualifying expenditure, up to a maximum of €5,000 (exc. VAT).

→ [Discover more](#)

Future Growth Loan Scheme

The Future Growth Loan Scheme makes up to €300 million of loans available with a term of 8-10 years. This scheme is available to eligible Irish businesses and the primary agriculture and seafood sectors to support strategic long-term investment in a post Brexit environment. Finance provided under the scheme is competitively priced and requires no security for loans up to €500,000. Loans must be used for investment in tangible or intangible assets for the purpose of process and organisational innovation, or investment in assets on agricultural holdings linked to primary agricultural production.

→ [Discover more](#)

Agile Innovation Fund

The Agile Innovation Fund has been developed by Enterprise Ireland to support product, service and process innovation to build competitive advantage. The key benefit of this support is that it allows for a simple application process and delivers a faster response time from application to approval. This Fund is open to eligible Local Enterprise Office clients, allowing companies to access up to 50% in support towards innovation projects with a total cost of up to €300,000.

→ [Discover more](#)

Innovation Vouchers

The Innovation Vouchers Scheme is open to small and medium sized limited companies registered in the Republic of Ireland. Vouchers, worth €5,000, are available to assist a company or companies to explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider.

→ [Discover more](#)

Louth County Enterprise Fund “The Fund”

The Enterprise Fund was established in 1989 with seed capital provided by the International Fund for Ireland and donations from many Louth-based businesses. The purpose was to provide loan finance to entrepreneurs and small businesses that had difficulty securing funding from the established lending institutions. Since then, “The Fund” has supported some 500 entrepreneurs and businesses, across a broad range of sectors, many of whom were not eligible for State support. Some companies have stayed small, but others have grown to be significant employers. The outstanding feature of the Enterprise Fund’s structure is its ability to harness local knowledge and apply local intelligence and discretion to its decision making process. The Enterprise Fund offers business loans of up to €25,000 to approved entrepreneurs and enterprises. These loans are repaid over a 3 – 5 year period with a typical interest rate of 7%.

→ [Discover more](#)



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READY TO... EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS

Break into international markets with a range of export supports

Open to ambitious businesses across the North-East, the Export Development Programme aims to support businesses in breaking into international markets. The programme examines how to select the right markets, understanding the territory, its potential and customer needs and expectations. It explores how sales channels operate in these markets, how to build a competitive and credible offering and developing a plan to build the infrastructure to sustain market entry.

[→ Discover more](#)

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Graduate to Enterprise Ireland to support your Global Ambition

Typically, the Local Enterprise Office provides support for micro-enterprises and small businesses with less than ten employees. We provide a range of services such as training, mentoring, and financial assistance to help businesses start and grow.

Some client companies have potential to scale and expand internationally. If that's your business, the Local Enterprise Office, our advisors and mentors, will work with you to help prepare for that transition to Enterprise Ireland.

Enterprise Ireland provide funding, advice, and support to help these businesses develop new products, enter new markets, and increase their sales and profits. They work with businesses that have a strong track record of innovation and are ambitious for international growth.

[→ Discover more](#)



Local Enterprise Office
LOUTH

Local Enterprise Office Louth
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📍 localenterprise.ie/Louth



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Louth County Council