

Assistance Available to Employers Taking on Staff

JobsPlus

JobsPlus is an employer incentive which encourages and rewards employers who offer employment opportunities to the long term unemployed. Monthly payments will be made to qualifying employers to offset wage costs where they recruit jobseekers from the live register.

This incentive is designed to encourage employers and businesses to focus their recruitment efforts on those who have been out of work for long periods. The level of payment is increased for the recruitment of those out of work for more than two years.

There are **two levels of payment** available depending on the circumstances of the applicant.

Payment levels from the 1st of January 2018;

Under 25 years of age, on the live register and unemployed for at least 104 days in the previous 6 months.	€7,500
Over 25 years of age, on the live register and unemployed for at least 312 days in the previous 18 months.	€7,500
In receipt of jobseekers allowance transition payment (no qualifying period applies).	€7,500
Persons with refugee status and are in receipt of jobseekers allowance (no qualifying period).	€7,500
Persons less than 50 years of age, on the live register and unemployed for at least 936 days in the previous 42 months.	€10,000
Over 50 years of age, on the live register and unemployed for at least 312 days in the previous 18 months.	€10,000

This incentive is open to all employers in the private (including commercial semi-state), community, not-for-profit and voluntary sectors.

In order to qualify an employer must offer full time employment of at least **30 hours per week**, spanning at least **four days per week**,

The eligible employee must be placed on the company payroll and subject to **PAYE** and **PRSI**.

The incentive will be available to employers filling new positions or vacancies that arise as a consequence of natural turnover. Employers will be asked to give details of workforce prior to application - where an increase in the work force is not evident an employer will be asked to provide additional information to DEASP to support the application.

The incentive will not be payable until an officer of DEASP is satisfied that the employee has closed their Jobseekers claim and is no longer in receipt of a payment.

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Further information and advice on all aspects of the JobsPlus incentive is available by accessing www.jobsplus.ie, sending an email to jobsplusinfo@welfare.ie or by calling (071) 9672535 / 9672583 / Locall 1890927999.

Jobsplus is administered by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Employment Support Services, Government Buildings, Shannon Lodge, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

Priming/Business Development Grants

If you own or are setting up a manufacturing or internationally traded service business, you may be able to get up to €15,000 per employee subject to a maximum of 10 employees from the 31 Local Enterprise Offices. Full details of eligibility criteria and grant assistance levels are available from www.localenterprise.ie/offaly.

Wage Subsidy Scheme

The Wage Subsidy Scheme provides a financial incentive to employers, outside the public sector, to employ people with disabilities or illness, who are deemed to have a productivity shortfall, for at least **21 hours per week**.

The rate of subsidy is **€5.30 per hour** and is based on the number of hours worked, giving a total annual subsidy available of **€10,748 per annum** based on a **maximum 39 hour week**. The employee has full terms and conditions of employment directly with employer.

The subsidy is paid by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to employers on an ongoing basis. Employers that wish to apply for Wage Subsidy Scheme should contact Edel Fitzpatrick, Employer Liaison Officer, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection on edel.fitzpatrick@welfare.ie /086 8141159 *or* Patricia Kelly, Employment Officer with Employability Midlands on 086 3873047/ offaly@employabilitymidlands.com

Youth Employment Support Scheme

The Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS) is a work experience placement programme which is specifically targeted at young jobseekers aged 18-24 years of age who are long-term unemployed or who face barriers to employment. The YESS will aim to provide jobseekers with the opportunity to learn basic work and social skills in a supportive environment while on a work placement. The scheme will provide a supportive structure for Participants, including case officer support for both Placement Hosts and jobseekers.

The YESS will be available to jobseekers and other eligible cohorts who are:

- Aged between 18 and 24 *and*;
- have been out of work and in receipt of a qualifying payment for at least 12 months *or*;
- if unemployed for less than 12 months, be considered by a case officer to face a significant barrier to work.

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Candidates must be in receipt of one of the following qualifying payments:

Jobseekers Allowance, Jobseekers Benefit, One Parent Family Payment, Jobseeker Transition Payment, Disability Allowance, Blind Person's Pension or Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

Participants on the YESS will be required to work **24 hours per week**, and placements will be for **3 months initially**, with an option to extend this further to **6 months**.

All participants will receive a payment of **€229.20 per week** from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP).

The eligibility criteria for an employer to host a YESS placement include the following:

- An organisation, or a local branch, must certify that they have a minimum of 1 full-time employee who is employed for 30 hours or more per week (i.e. on payroll and subject to PAYE and PRSI).
- The Placement Host should be a legal entity and/or a charity recognised by the Revenue Commissioners (with a CHY number).
- The scheme is open to sole traders who satisfy the conditions of the scheme.
- The placement host should be fully compliant with all legal requirements.
- The placement host's Public/Employers Liability insurance and Motor insurance, if applicable, should cover any participants on the programme.
- The placement host should be fully compliant with current workplace Health and Safety and all other legal and sectoral requirements.
- The placement must be in accordance with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission's Code of Practice on Sexual Harassment and Harassment at Work.

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Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



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