

+ 2021 COVID-19 RECOVERY SUPPORTS



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+ Introduction

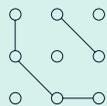
The Government's Economic Recovery Plan, published on June 1st, 2021 sets out a clear path towards achieving rapid job creation and economic growth as the economy recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic. The plan outlines a new range of supports for the next stage of Ireland's economic recovery, with the intention of exceeding the pre-pandemic employment levels of 2.5 million by 2024.

In order to help Irish companies remain competitive as global economies re-open, Enterprise Ireland has launched a number of targeted funds. The funding will be administered under the EU Commission's Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to support the economy in the current Covid-19 outbreak, offering greater flexibilities to support companies, with fewer restrictions.

Approvals and payments can only be made under this framework until year end 2021. Enterprise Ireland will continue to assist Irish businesses as they look to adapt and respond to new opportunities and challenges in the wake of the pandemic and in the longer term.

For further information on the Covid-19 supports outlined in this guide, contact your Development Advisor, visit enterprise-ireland.com, or email us at GA-BSF@enterprise-ireland.com.





1 Accelerated Recovery Fund

NEW



Applications now open. Support of up to €1.8m available.

The Accelerated Recovery Fund is a new fund designed to provide support to Irish companies seeking to adapt their operations and business models in order to remain competitive and return to growth following the effects of the pandemic.

The fund supports eligible companies to achieve an accelerated recovery, underpinned by capital investment and/or adoption of a new, more digitalised approach to deliver enhanced sustainability.

Capital Investment Benefits:

- + An increase in productivity can be driven by the introduction of new capital equipment as businesses recover from the impact of Covid-19.
- + Investment in equipment and processes can help reduce your carbon footprint and lower operating costs. Furthermore it demonstrates to both investors and customers a commitment to a net zero carbon future, potentially making your business a more attractive proposition.

Digital Capabilities Benefits:

- + Advances in digital technologies, and the shift to increased digitalisation accelerated by Covid-19, is shaping new ways of working and revolutionising business practices.
- + Successful implementation of digital practices across all aspects of business operations delivers competitive advantages in customer experience, internal operations and business model innovation.
- + Investing in digital capabilities supports productivity growth, and innovation in products and services across the value chain.

Eligible companies

The Accelerated Recovery Fund is open to companies that operate within the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors which:

- + employed 10 or more full time employees on their payroll on the 29th February 2020 or
- + employed 10 full time employees at the time of application.

This fund is open to manufacturing and internationally traded services companies. Funding must be approved and drawn down before 31st December, 2021.

In order to be eligible for funding, companies must:

- + Have experienced, or be projected to experience, a 15% or more reduction in actual or projected turnover or profit as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. The reduction in turnover or profit of 15% or more, compares a quarter in 2019 (pre-Covid) to the same quarter in either 2020 or 2021.
- + Have had a significant increase in operational costs as a result of Covid-19.
- + Not have been Undertakings in Difficulty at 31st December 2019 or at the date of application, as provided for in State aid law. An exception to this is micro and small undertakings (i.e. undertakings with fewer than 50 employees and less than €10m of annual turnover and/or Balance Sheet value) provided that, at the moment of providing the support, they are not subject to collective insolvency procedure under national law.

Description of funding

- + Under this fund, eligible companies can apply for support for the implementation of an Accelerated Recovery Plan. The minimum eligible expenditure to support the implementation of the business plan is €150k. The maximum support that can be approved by Enterprise Ireland is €1.8 million per undertaking.
- + Eligible costs will need to be detailed within the Accelerated Recovery Project Plan, and must fall under at least one of the following categories. The rate of funding varies depending on company size.
 - Capital costs.
 - Implementation costs (covering consultancy and salaries).
 - Training costs.

Funding Rate by Company for Eligible Costs

	Capital	Implementation	Training
Small (<50 employees)	50%	50%	70%
Medium (50-249 employees)	40%	40%	60%
Large (>250 employees)	30%	30%	50%

- + Funding will be awarded against eligible expenditure. Funding instruments include:
 - Grant and/or
 - Equity and/or
 - Repayable Advances and/or
 - Loans (Loan Notes/Convertible Loan Notes)
- + For traditional bank funded companies (non-equity supported companies), support will typically be in the form of a grant.
- + For equity supported companies, mainly HPSU follow-on/established, Tech/Life Science companies, support will be by way of equity or convertible Loan Notes and grants.
- + Enterprise Ireland may at its discretion provide support by way of Repayable Advances and grants.

Companies ineligible to apply

- + Medium and large undertakings (i.e. those that don't have fewer than 50 employees and less than €10m of annual turnover and/or Balance Sheet value) which fall under the category of a Businesses in Difficulty both on 31st December 2019 and on their date of application.
- + Medium and large businesses that became Businesses in Difficulty after 31st December 2019 for reasons not related to Covid-19 and remain Businesses in Difficulty.
- + Companies which do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Eligible Companies section above.
- + Companies which do not meet minimum eligible expenditure of €150,000.
- + Companies operating in the coal or steel sector.
- + Companies active in the primary agricultural, fishery or aquaculture sectors.
- + Companies covered by specific rules for Financial Services.
- + Companies involved in activities which Enterprise Ireland considers as ineligible or are involved in an unacceptable reputational risk. Including:
 - the gambling sector, including 'gaming' (as defined in the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956)
 - adult entertainment
 - tobacco and tobacco-related products
 - cannabis-based products which are not authorised as medicines.

For further eligibility criteria and application details, visit:
enterprise-ireland.com/recover





2

Digitalisation Voucher

NEW



New €9,000 support to help companies access the expertise they need to develop their own digital roadmap.

The new Digitalisation Voucher is a 100% funded grant which provides support to companies as they seek to access the expertise needed to develop a digital roadmap for their business. This expertise can take the form of independent technical or advisory services that relate to the current and future operations of the business, with respect to assessing their digital readiness, and identifying opportunities for increased digitalisation across the business.

Businesses embracing digital technologies and digitally based procedures have been proven to perform better, be more dynamic, grow faster, and have better employee productivity and improved management practices.

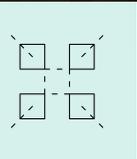
Eligible companies

- + Manufacturing or internationally traded services companies, with 10 full time employees at time of application.
- + As part of the application you will need to complete a digital assessment scorecard from Enterprise Ireland which will provide an overview of your current digital readiness.

Description of funding

- + The voucher covers the provision of technical or advisory services, related to the operations of the business, from an approved service provider up to a value of €9,000.
- + A maximum daily rate of €900 shall apply.
- + The support will be provided over a relatively short period but it may be spread out over a maximum of 8 weeks.
- + Eligible Projects must include one or more of the following activities:
 - Internal process optimisation (Lean Digital Optimisation, Cybersecurity and Cloud).
 - Enhance customer experience (Product, Service, Route to Market and Channels).
 - Data-driven decision making.





3

Digital Ready Scorecard

NEW



Evaluate your digital maturity with our self-assessment Digital Ready Scorecard.

Covid-19 had the effect of accelerating digital adoption as businesses sought new ways to continue trading through the pandemic. Businesses with strong digital capabilities have found themselves in the position of being able to recover faster and more efficiently. The Digital Ready Scorecard helps companies become more digitally mature by self-assessing their current position, identifying opportunities and risks to their business, and developing a plan to enhance their digitalisation across their operations.

The scorecard rates digital readiness under five key areas:

- + Workforce and Skills
- + Management and Operations
- + Product and Service Development and Delivery
- + Sales and Marketing
- + Regulation and Compliance.

Eligible companies

- + The scorecard is open to all businesses interested in starting their digitalisation readiness journey.

Access the Digital Ready Scorecard

- + Visit www.globalambition.ie/scorecard to complete a digital assessment scorecard of your current digital readiness.



4 Sustaining Enterprise Fund



Support of up to €800,000 can be provided to companies who have been negatively impacted by Covid-19.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- + Ensure eligible companies have access to necessary liquidity to stabilise cashflow, adapt their operations and innovate to meet new customer needs.
- + Sustain the business so that the company can return to profitability and continue to contribute to the recovery of the Irish economy.

Eligible companies

Up to €800,000 is available to eligible companies which:

- + Employ 10 or more full-time employees.
- + Are operating in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors on 29th February 2020 or at time of application. The fund is open to (i) domestically traded companies within the definition of manufacturing and (ii) internationally traded service sectors.
- + Have seen (or expect to see) a 15% or greater reduction in actual or projected turnover or profit, or have suffered a significant increase in costs, as a result of Covid-19.

The Sustaining Enterprise Fund will be used to support the implementation of a Sustaining Enterprise Project Plan, which should be provided by the company, outlining strategy for the eventual stabilisation of the business and a return to viability. Separate funding through the Covid-19 Business Financial Planning Grant can help companies to develop the Sustaining Enterprise Project Plan.

Description of funding

- + Funding from €100,000, up to a maximum of €800,000, is available to eligible companies.
- + Funding will be provided for a five-year period, using the following instruments: repayable advances, grant aid, equity or loan note.
- + Funding provided will be a combination of repayable and non-repayable support.
- + Up to 50% of the funding provided will be non-repayable, with maximum non-repayable support of €200,000.
- + An administration fee applies to the repayable element of the funding (i.e. repayable advances, loans or equity), as follows: – 0% administration fee on first six months – 4% per annum thereafter.
- + Repayable Advances are due for repayment in years 4 and 5 (i.e. no repayment for the first 3 years).
- + The equity instrument used will primarily be Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares (CRPs).
- + Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares (CCRPs) and ordinary equity may be used where Enterprise Ireland seeks to match the terms of other investors.
- + All funding will be made available against a submitted Sustaining Enterprise Project Plan.

Who cannot apply?

The scheme is not open to companies which:

- + Are defined as medium and large undertakings (i.e. those that don't have fewer than 50 employees and less than €10m of annual turnover and/or Balance Sheet value) which fall under the category of an Undertaking in Difficulty both on 31st December 2019 and on their date of application.
- + Are active in the primary agricultural, fishery or aquaculture sectors.
- + Operate in the coal and steel sector.
- + Were covered by specific rules for Financial Services.



5

Other Covid-19 Recovery Funds Available



A. SEF – Small Enterprise Fund

As part of the Sustaining Enterprise Fund, the Sustaining Enterprise Fund for Small Enterprise will provide a €25k to €50k short-term working capital injection to eligible smaller companies. The fund aims to support business continuity and strengthen their ability to return to growth and a strong trading position within three years.

The fund will sustain eligible manufacturing and internationally traded services companies by providing support to those which have experienced a 15% or more reduction in actual or projected turnover or profit, and require access to liquidity to sustain business continuity.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- + Provide financial support (against detailed costs and cashflows) to eligible companies for a 3-6 month period in order to support business continuity.
- + Sustain business so that companies can return to viability and contribute to the recovery of the Irish economy.

Businesses qualifying under this scheme will be offered funding of up to €50,000 in accordance with EU rules.

Funding provided will be a combination of repayable and non-repayable support, with up to 50% of the funding provided being non-repayable.

An administration fee applies to the repayable element of the funding, as follows: – 0% administration fee on first six months – 4% per annum thereafter.

Funding is available to certain categories of companies based on the following thresholds.

- + Companies with an annual turnover in their most recent financial statements not exceeding €1.5 million can apply for up to €25,000 in funding.
- + Companies with an annual turnover in their most recent financial statements greater than €1.5 million but less than €5 million can apply for funding up to €50,000.

Funding will be awarded against a submitted Business Continuity Project Plan which should have the objective of strengthening the company's position to be trading in three years' time. It must also show that the company, with Enterprise Ireland assistance and the contribution of its own business continuity plans, has sufficient cash to bring the business back to more normal operations as the current restrictions are relaxed or lifted.

Who can apply

Eligible applicants are manufacturing and internationally traded services companies with:

- + 10 or more full-time people on their payroll on the 29th of February 2020.
- + An annual turnover in their most recent financial statements not exceeding €5 million. This fund is open to manufacturing and internationally traded services companies.

In addition, eligible companies must have:

- + Suffered, or are projected to suffer, a 15% or more reduction in actual or projected turnover or profit as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak (including a significant increase in costs as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak).

Who cannot apply?

This Scheme is not open to companies that:

- + Are defined as medium and large undertakings (i.e. those that don't have fewer than 50 employees and less than €10m of annual turnover and/or Balance Sheet value) which fall under the category of an Undertaking in Difficulty both on 31st December 2019 and on their date of application.
- + Are operating in the coal or steel sector.
- + Are active in the primary agricultural, fishery or aquaculture sectors.
- + Are covered by specific rules for Financial Services.

B. SEF - HPSU

This fund is aimed at companies which, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, are facing delays to projected sales growth and whose fundraising plans are significantly impacted or stalled. Under this fund, HPSUs can apply for co-investment of €50,000 per undertaking in the form of equity or convertible debt instruments.

The fund is open to companies in whom Enterprise Ireland has an existing HPSU seed stage equity investment, who were showing strong commercial and technical progress prior to the Covid-19 crisis, and can demonstrate a clear need for additional funding. For more information, please contact your Enterprise Ireland Development Adviser.

Enterprise Ireland is the government organisation responsible for the development and growth of Irish enterprises in world markets. We work in partnership with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. In this way, we support sustainable economic growth, regional development and secure employment.

Learn more at enterprise-ireland.com