



Finance to develop your business

Extraordinary times! Spending is being cut back and finance is more difficult to source. Yet true entrepreneurs continue to adapt to the situation, as they have always done, and find new ways to offer the products and services that meet the new needs of today's cautious customers.

Businesses started in boom markets are among the first to succumb to difficulties, while businesses formed in times like these survive, grow and prosper in the long term. You need to make sure that your business is properly equipped and funded to give it the best possible chance of success.

This is where South Dublin County Enterprise Board comes in. If you are in our kind of business*, we are interested in providing the kind of financial support that will help to get you started. Our programmes are tailored to your needs and designed to help you succeed in today's exciting and challenging business world.

The goal of self-sufficient self-employment is still realistic for people with self-belief, people willing to commit themselves to create a new future; people like you!



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**See overleaf for eligibility criteria*



FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

Finance for New and Expanding
Small Businesses in South Dublin



Types of support

The type of support provided will depend on what your business needs. Three types are available:

Priming Support

For startup businesses within the first 18 months after start-up.

Business Development Support

For businesses in a growth phase after the initial 18 months after startup.

Feasibility Study Grants

Support for the costs of market research, product development and other kinds of innovation.

Eligible Costs

- » **Capital Items** – equipment, fittings, hardware and software required for the business, with the exception of specifically mobile assets such as vehicles.
- » **Salary Costs** for the 1st year of employment.
- » **Rental/Accommodation Costs**, where the cost is not already subsidised through State investment in the premises.
- » **Utility Costs** such as installation of power, phone and broadband.
- » **Marketing Costs**, including packaging design, brochures, trade fairs, websites and the adaptation of these for export markets.
- » **Consultancy Costs** such as design fees, legal costs, accountancy, legal and architects fees.

- » **Business-specific Training.** Specialised training for management and key personnel that is necessary for the development of the business and not generally available from South Dublin County Enterprise Board.

Limits

The Board's investment in each project is strictly limited by the amount invested by the owners (i.e. max 50%).

In the case of both Priming Assistance and Business Development Assistance, there is normally an overall maximum of €80,000. In general, the level of funding will also relate to the level of employment provided in the short to medium term at an indicative rate of €8,000 per new job.

Feasibility Study Grants are normally subject to an overall limit of €10,000 or 50% of expenditure.

Support is also subject to the availability of funding, which is limited, and applicants are effectively competing for these funds.

Repayment

Normally, one third of Priming Support and two thirds of Business Development Support is refundable to the Board. The remainder is given as a non-refundable grant. Feasibility Study Grants are completely non-refundable. In all cases, repayments begin after one year and continue quarterly over the following four years.

Eligibility

To qualify for support, all projects must have the potential to be commercially viable within a reasonable timeframe, must employ 10 or less and must be located within South Dublin County. Priority is given to manufacturing and internationally traded service projects in respect of all financial assistance.

Projects in the following sectors unfortunately cannot be supported financially:

- » Professional Services
- » Construction and Allied Trades
- » Retailing and Distributive trades
- » Transportation
- » Printing and Publishing
- » Alternative Therapies & Complimentary Medicine

However, non-financial supports are available to businesses in these sectors.

Business Plan

Each application for support must be accompanied by a comprehensive and up-to-date business plan of a quality and format acceptable to the Board. A suggested format for such a plan is available in our website download area and the assistance of a mentor with the preparation of a plan may be provided in some cases.

Capability Development

Clients are strongly encouraged to participate in the various business and management skills development offered by the Board, including the Mentor Programme.

How to Apply

It is good practice to contact an executive of the Board for guidance at the earliest opportunity. Application forms are available from the Board's offices and website. One of our executives will meet with you to discuss and clarify your application. The Board meets on a monthly basis to decide on applications.

Please Note

This information is a summary of our supports and is not a comprehensive description of our terms and conditions. The full terms and conditions are available on request. In addition, the Board may decide to vary these conditions or add extra requirements in individual cases.