

Employment Schemes

You may have been out of work for some time perhaps since having your child and want to return; or you may not have been in work but you are beginning to consider your options and feel a little daunted at where to begin.

Finding work that fits around school hours or that pays well enough to fund crèche costs or afterschool costs and housing can be a challenge. Sometimes it may seem that employment does not pay well enough, when income supports are means tested and there may be some loss of benefits but being in work can lead to some improvement in the household income. We also repeatedly hear that people want to work; for themselves and to set a positive role model for their children, to be able to financially provide for their family and be free of social welfare payments.

There are a number of employment schemes as well as some social welfare allowances that offer financial support to those who may be considering self-employment. There is also a specific social welfare payment called Family Income Supplement, for those going into part time employment of 19 hours a week, which may help bridge the gap between not working outside the home and full time employment. Two current employment schemes that are available are the JobBridge and the Community Employment schemes; further information is below:

JobBridge

JobBridge is an internship programme available to people who are in receipt of certain social welfare payments; Jobseekers Allowance/Benefit, One Parent Family Payment, Jobseekers Allowance Transition Payment or Disability allowance for three months or more.

An intern receives an additional €50 per week on top of their normal social welfare payment and must work a minimum of 30 and maximum of 40 hours per week. You can retain secondary benefits such as Rent Supplement, Fuel Allowance and your medical card while you are on a JobBridge internship. Further information on JobBridge is available [here](#).

JobBridge can be a good option for you if you have not worked in a long time and would like to build up some work experience in a particular area. You can avail of the [After School Childcare scheme \(ASCC\)](#) if you are on the JobBridge programme to help you with childcare costs.

Community Employment

The Community Employment (CE) programme is designed to help people to get back to work by offering part-time jobs based within their local community. Participants can also take up other part-time work during their placement.

Community Employment is available to people who are in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance, One Parent Family Payment, Widow/Widowers Pension and Disability Allowance (if aged between 18 and 25).

You will receive an extra €20 per week on top of your usual social welfare payment with a minimum of €208 per week paid to CE participants.

Further information is available from your local Intreo office or you can search for current CE vacancies on the Department's website:

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Find-a-Job.aspx>

If childcare is required to take up a CE role then there is the [CE Childcare Programme](#) which may provide childcare for children aged up to 13 years old.