

Enquiry Form

My enquiry:.....
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Actions Requested:

- Please register me for email newsletter
- Please send me the following brochures:
 - Supports Services
 - Innovation Grants
 - Mentoring
 - Training
 - Business Networks
- Please contact me to discuss my enquiry
- Please send me an application for financial assistance
- Please send me an application form for Mentoring service
- Please send me an application form for Training
- Name:.....
- Address:
- Phone:.....
- Email:.....



**South Dublin County
Enterprise Board**

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Finance to develop your business

There has never been a better time to start a business. The goal of self-sufficient self-employment is now realistic for people with self-belief, people willing to commit themselves to create a new future; people like you!

However, as you have probably realised, it is still not easy. Business is becoming more efficient, competitive and sophisticated. You need to make sure that your business is properly equipped and funded to give it the best possible chance of success.

Finding finance for all of this in one of the most difficult things you have to face. Interest rates may be historically low but banks are still reluctant to take financial risks, especially with new and small businesses.

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.

*See overleaf for eligibility criteria



Financial Supports

*Finance for New and
Expanding Small
Businesses in
South Dublin*



The South Dublin County Enterprise Board offers a wide range of financial assistance to suit different kinds of business situations. In all cases, the Board is particularly interested in supporting genuinely innovative projects.

Refundable Capital Equipment Assistance

Where specific capital assets are required to develop the business, refundable capital assistance is usually the most appropriate option.

Under this scheme, the Board may award funding of up to 50% of the cost of productive assets within an upper limit of €75,000. Eligible assets include machinery and equipment, buildings and building adaptation. Ineligible assets include vehicles and other explicitly mobile assets.

The funding is issued as soon as the asset has been paid for and is working. Part payments are possible in some circumstances. Repayment begins after a moratorium, usually lasting 12 months, and payments are normally scheduled over 36 months thereafter. No interest applies to this financial support at present and no collateral is required. A 1% Service Fee is payable on all refundable financial supports.

Redeemable Preference Shares.

In the case of larger projects with high potential, the Board may offer equity investment between €25,000 and €75,000 in the form of either preference shares or ordinary shares, as it deems appropriate. Preference shares are redeemable over 5 years. At the moment, they do not carry a dividend requirement. Normally, the Board will match the investment being made by the owners of the business. Our investment is limited to a maximum of 50% of the cost of the start-up or expansion project. For both types of shares, a 1% service fee is payable by the client company.

Employment Assistance

Locally traded service projects in certain 'priority categories' may apply for Refundable Employment Assistance of €7,500 for each new employee up to a maximum of 10 employees. The promoter's own employment in the project is also eligible for support.

Half of the approved assistance is paid after the employee has been 'taken on' and the remainder is paid when a total of 6 months service has been accumulated. Repayment begins after the usual moratorium.

As the budget allocation in this area is limited, please contact the Board before making your application.

The priority categories are:

- Recipients of any social welfare allowance.
- Unemployed persons starting a new business.
- Childcare businesses employing 3 or less.
- Commercial community-owned businesses..

Innovation Grants

Funding of up to €4000 or 40% of total relevant expenditure is offered to encourage and facilitate innovation projects that will result in significant strategic improvements and changes to the business's products, services, business processes or marketing

The following are examples of the type of activity that may be supported:

- Design or enhancement of interactive e-business websites
- Export marketing activities
- Product design and prototyping
- Market research
- Formation of significant joint ventures and partnerships.

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 with the exception of Employment Assistance, which is only available to locally traded services in the 'priority categories'.

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 on request and the assistance of a mentor with the preparation of a plan may be provided in some cases.

Capability Development. Recipients of refundable financial assistance exceeding €15,000 are automatically allocated Mentoring support. Other clients are encouraged to participate in the various business and management skills development suggested / offered by the Board including the Mentor Programme.

How to Apply:

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.

