

### Employment Support Scheme (ESS)

- Administered by FAS
- Employee in receipt of social welfare
- Minimum 20 hours per week work
- 50% - 80% of average work performance required
- Lose Social Welfare Payment
- Retain secondary benefits & medical card for one year.
- Cannot avail of any other schemes/ benefits including BTWA or National Programme of Supported Employment

### Back To Work Allowance

- Paid on reducing scale over 3 year period
- On DA, BPP or IP for at least 15 months (over 50 years 12 months) or Disability Benefit for at least 3 years.
- Job likely to be lasting
- Minimum 20 hours per week
- At least minimum wage
- Retain a percentage of social welfare payment  
Year 1 – 75% of benefits  
Year 2 – 50% of benefits  
Year 3 – 25% of benefits
- Retain Medical Card for 3 years
- Retain secondary benefits subject to income limit.(rent allowance for 4 years)

### Contact List

Employment Support Service,  
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs,  
P.O. Box 3840  
Dublin 2.  
Telephone: 01 7943165

### Exemptions to Work:

#### Disability Allowance/ Invalidation Pension:

Social Welfare Services Office  
Balinallee Road  
Co. Longford.  
Telephone: 043 45211 or 01 874 8444

#### Disability Benefit:

Disability Benefit Section  
Aras Mhic Dhiarmada  
Store Street  
Dublin 1  
Telephone: 01 679 7777

#### Blind Person's Pension:

Pension Services  
College Road  
Sligo  
Telephone: 071 69800 or 01 874 8444

### List of Sheltered/Supported Employment Services

Ballyraine TC  
Industrial Estate  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 21323

Green Leaf Garden Centre  
St Conal's Hospital  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 27336

TACA TC  
Unit 6 Industrial Est  
Derrybeg, Gweedore  
Co Donegal  
(075) 32611

Ballytivnan TC  
Ballytivnan  
Sligo  
Co Sligo  
(071) 43214

NTDI  
Letterkenny Road  
Lifford  
Co Donegal  
(074) 41430

Donegal Cheshire Apts  
Long Lane  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 27678

NWSEPP  
Comhairle Office  
Knappagh  
Strandhill Road  
Sligo  
(071) 53222

Wheelchair Services &  
Support Systems Ltd  
Ballytivnan  
Sligo  
Co Sligo  
(071) 43280

Kilmacrennan Road TC  
Kilmacrennan Road  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 22033

Gweedore TC  
Industrial Estate  
Derrybeg  
Co Donegal  
(075) 31300

Cleary TC  
Drumlonagher  
Donegal Town  
Co Donegal  
(073) 22910

Donegal Cheese  
Lisfannon Industrial Est  
Buncrana  
Co Donegal  
(077) 63690

NTDI  
Bridge Street  
Sligo  
Co Sligo  
(071) 45391

Dochas Clubhouse  
Millbrook  
John F Kennedy Parade  
Sligo  
(071) 40283

Worklink North West  
4a Pearse Road  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 28872  
(077) 82001 (Moville)

Training, Work,  
Employment Support  
Services (NWHB)  
69 Ballyraine Road  
Letterkenny  
(074) 27309

**For further information contact your local  
Social Welfare Office or your local  
Citizens Information Centre**

Produced by IASE North West Branch 2002

# IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (North West Branch)

## Benefits Information Leaflet 2002



**A Person with an illness/disability is entitled to an allowance paid by the Department of Social Family and Community Affairs.**

**The following are allowances available to them:**

<b>Benefit Name</b>	<b>Who is eligible?</b>	<b>Number of Hours a person can work and retain all benefit?</b>	<b>Amount earned before benefit is reduced</b>	<b>Pay &amp; PRSI</b> <i>(All Employees should apply for a certificate of tax credits from their local tax office)</i>	<b>Secondary Benefits</b>	<b>Example:</b>  <i>20 hours per week on minimum wage (€5.97/hour) before tax deductions</i>  <i>(From 1st Oct 2002 the minimum wage will increase to €6.35/hour)</i>
<b>Disability Allowance</b> €118.80 per week (€93.56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to work due to long-term illness/disability</li> <li>Means tested</li> <li>Full DA restored when employment ceases</li> </ul>	No limit but work must be classed rehabilitative and Social Welfare notified	*€95.23 Euro per week (€75.00)  <i>* From April 2002 this amount will increase to €120.00</i>	This benefit is not taxable.  But earnings from rehabilitative employment are subject to usual PRSI and income tax deductions.	You are entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Travel</li> </ul> You may be entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rent Allowance</li> <li>Free Electric</li> <li>Free Coloured TV Licence</li> <li>Fuel Allowance</li> <li>Living Alone Allowance</li> <li>Medical Card</li> </ul>	Earnings: €119.40 (€94.03) DA: € 94.63 (€74.53)  Total: <u>€214.03</u> (€168.56)  <i>The example deducts €24.17 from your DA as an income limit of €95.23 applies.</i>
<b>Disability Benefit</b> €118.80 per week (€93.56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to work due to illness/disability</li> <li>Sufficient PRSI contributions</li> <li>Payable for up to one year initially</li> </ul>	Approved rehabilitative work to a maximum of 20 hours per week. Exemption certified for 1 year. (Must be on DB for at least 6 months)	No Income limit	This benefit and earnings are taxable	You may be entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rent Allowance</li> <li>Medical Card</li> </ul>	Earnings: €119.40 (€94.03) DB: <u>€118.80</u> (€93.56)  Total: <u>€238.20</u> (€187.59)
<b>Invalidity Pension</b> €123.30 per week (€97.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanently unable to work due to illness/disability (Following one year on DB) 1<sup>st</sup> claim</li> <li>Sufficient PRSI contributions</li> </ul>	Approved rehabilitative work to a maximum of 20 hours per week. Exemption certified for up to one year. A further exemption can be applied for.	No income limit	This benefit and earnings are taxable	You are entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Travel</li> </ul> You may be entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rent Allowance</li> <li>Free Electric</li> <li>Free Coloured TV Licence</li> <li>Fuel Allowance</li> <li>Living Alone Allowance</li> <li>Medical Card</li> </ul>	Earnings: €119.40 (€94.03) IP: <u>€123.30</u> (€97.11)  Total: <u>€242.70</u> (€191.14)
<b>Blind Person's Pension</b> €118.80 per week (€93.56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visually impaired</li> <li>Means tested</li> <li>Full BPP restored when employment ceases</li> </ul>	No limit but work must be classed rehabilitative and Social Welfare notified.	*€95.23 per week.(€75.00)  <i>* From April 2002 this amount will increase to €120.00</i>	This benefit is taxable but you are entitled to extra tax-free allowances over and above the norm. Earnings are taxable.	You are entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Travel</li> </ul> You may be entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rent Allowance</li> <li>Free Electric</li> <li>Free Coloured TV Licence</li> <li>Fuel Allowance</li> <li>Living Alone Allowance</li> <li>Medical Card</li> </ul>	Earnings: €119.40 (€94.03) BPP: € 94.63 (€74.53)  Total: <u>€214.03</u> (€168.56)  <i>The example deducts €24.17 from your DA as an income limit of €95.23 applies.</i>