

## 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.  
(Reduced Rent allowance for up to 4 years)

## Contact List

Employment Support Service,  
Department of Social & 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 91 69800 or 01 874 8444

## List of Sheltered/Supported Employment Services

Ballyraine TC  
Industrial Estate  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 91 21323

Green Leaf Garden Centre  
St Conal's Hospital  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 91 27336

TACA TC  
Unit 6 Industrial Est  
Derrybeg, Gweedore  
Co Donegal  
(074) 95 32611

Ballytivnan TC  
Ballytivnan  
Sligo  
Co Sligo  
(071) 91 43214

NTDI  
Letterkenny Road  
Lifford  
Co Donegal  
(074) 91 41430

Donegal Cheshire Apts  
Long Lane  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 91 27678

Employment Response  
North West  
Comhairle Building  
Strandhill Road  
Sligo  
(071) 91 53222

Wheelchair Services &  
Support Systems Ltd  
Ballytivnan  
Sligo  
Co Sligo  
(071) 91 43280

Kilmacrennan Road TC  
Kilmacrennan Road  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 91 22033

Gweedore TC  
Industrial Estate  
Derrybeg  
Co Donegal  
(074) 95 31300

Cleary TC  
Drumlonagher  
Donegal Town  
Co Donegal  
(074) 97 22910

Donegal Cheese  
Lisfannon Industrial Est  
Buncrana  
Co Donegal  
(074) 93 63690

NTDI  
Bridge Street  
Sligo  
Co Sligo  
(071) 91 45391

Dochas Clubhouse  
Millbrook  
John F Kennedy Parade  
Sligo  
(071) 91 40283

Worklink North West  
4a Pearse Road  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
(074) 91 28872  
(074) 93 64144 (Buncrana)

Training, Work,  
Employment Support  
Services (NWHB)  
Ballyraine Road  
Letterkenny  
(074) 91 27309

Whilst the IASE North West Branch have tried to ensure that all information is correct, this leaflet is intended as a guide only  
**For further information contact your local Social Welfare Office or your local Citizens Information Centre**

Produced by IASE North West Branch 2005

# IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

(North West Branch)

## Benefits Information Leaflet 2005

Design + Print: Donegal Printing Company, Letterkenny. T: (074) 9121710 F: (074) 9125697



**Below are a number of grants/schemes available to facilitate the employment of people with disabilities:**

*(This leaflet could be subject to change in December Budget, 2005)*

	<b>Grant / Scheme</b>	<b>Benefit to the Employer</b>	<b>Available to</b>	<b>Where to Apply</b>	<b>Other Information</b>	
	<b>Revenue Job Assist*</b>	Revenue Job Assist will give employers double deduction in their accounts for a period of 3 years.	Any employer who employs a person who has been unemployed for at least 12 months or more.	Apply to your local tax office	Available for up to 3 years per employee.	
	<b>Employment Support Scheme</b>	Offers financial support to employers who employ people with disabilities for at least 20 hours per week, whose work productivity levels are between 50-80% of average performance.	Employees who have productivity levels between 50-80% average performance. The shortfall in productivity is determined by the employer in consultation with the employee and agreed with the FAS Employment Service Officer.	Contact your local FÁS Employment Service Office or your local Supported Employment Coordinator	<p>The employer is paid a subsidy of between 20-50% of the employee's wages to cover the shortfall.</p> <p>Productivity shortfall is reviewed annually.</p> <p>The employer must have a current Tax Clearance Certificate.</p>	
	<b>Disability Awareness Training Support Scheme</b>	A grant is available to all organisations in the private sector towards providing disability awareness training to staff.	Any employer who provides eligible training by approved trainers. Eligible training for the purposes of this grant is training whose aim is to provide participants with an understanding and awareness of the integration of people with disabilities into the workforce.	Contact your local FÁS Employment Service Office or your local Supported Employment Coordinator	<p>The DATSS aims to assist in the integration of people with disabilities into the workforce and to eliminate mistaken perceptions about people with disabilities and their capacity to be productive and effective colleagues and employees.</p> <p>Training grants of 90% of eligible programme costs for the first year and thereafter 80% of eligible training costs are granted.</p> <p>There is a limit of €20,000 payable to an organisation in any one calendar year for training purposes under this scheme.</p>	
	<b>Retention Grant</b>	This grant will assist employers to retain/retrain existing employees who become disabled through sickness or injury.	Employers who wish to retain employees.	Contact your local FÁS Employment Service Office or your local Supported Employment Coordinator	Through this grant existing employees who have acquired a disability can be offered retraining so that they can undertake alternative duties or continue to work at their existing duties using modified techniques.	
	<b>Workplace Equipment/ Adaptation Grant</b>	This grant (max €6348.70) enables an employer to make their workplace more accessible or equipment easier to use for a person with a disability.	Any employer who has offered employment or is currently employing a person with a disability and requires an adaptation to equipment or premises to undertake the duties required.	Contact your local FÁS Employment Service Office or your local Supported Employment Coordinator	This grant can be applied for by either the employer or the person with a disability	<p><b>Other grants available:</b></p> <p>m Job Interview Interpreter Grant</p> <p>m Personal Reader Grant</p>
	<b>Employer's PRSI Exemption Scheme</b>	This scheme exempts employers from their contribution in respect of workers for the first two years of their employment.	The employee must be receiving Back To Work Allowance for the first time. Employer must have a Tax Clearance Certificate.	Employers PRSI Exemption Scheme Section, Ground Floor, Gandon House, Amiens St, Dublin 1. <i>or</i> Local Social Welfare Office.	The employees' PRSI contributions are payable in the normal way. No limit to the number of people an employer can employ under this scheme.	

\*Not available to employees who are receiving Back To Work Allowance