

The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance is a Social Welfare scheme to help those who are in receipt of a welfare payment to become self employed. You may be entitled to continue receiving a weekly social welfare payment for two years while you set up your business. If you are successful, the BTWEA pays 100% of your current Social Welfare payment for the first year and 75% of it for the second year. Most people can qualify for the BTWEA if they have already been getting a payment for a year or more.

For those who have recently lost their jobs and are in receipt of Job Seekers Benefit you may qualify for the Short Term Enterprise Allowance. This scheme will allow you to continue receiving your payment for the same length of time you would have got JSB.

To apply you will need to make contact with Wexford Local Development and fulfil certain obligations. You will have to fill out the necessary form, check to see if you are eligible and you need to produce a good business plan. If and when your business is approved you must also register with the Revenue Commissioners to become self employed.