**Employment schemes**

If you are a long-term unemployed individual or you never had a job, there is a variety of employment schemes and support available to help you get back to work.

The **Community Employment schemes (CE schemes)** provide work experience and training opportunities to people who are long-term unemployed. CE schemes offer a range of different roles in community-based organizations, and they usually last for a year, working for **19.5 hours per week**. You may be eligible for CE if you are **18 years and over** and you are getting **Disability Allowance**, **Blind Pension** or **Invalidity Pension**, or getting **Illness Benefit** for at least 6 months. To apply for the CE scheme, you will need to register at your local **Intreo Centre** or **Social Welfare Branch Office**. All currently available CE schemes are advertised online, on Jobs Ireland website which you can access through the following link: [Home - JobsIreland.ie](https://jobsireland.ie/)

To learn more about CE schemes and eligibility criteria, visit Citizen Information through the following link: [Community Employment (CE) scheme (citizensinformation.ie)](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/unemployment_and_redundancy/employment_support_schemes/community_employment_scheme.html)

The **Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP)** provides participants with a chance to get work experience if they never had a job or lost it. It is a 6-month, 30 hour per week programme that can help you build new skills and gain work experience.

To qualify, you must be between **18 and 65 years old**, **unemployed for at least 6 months** and receive the **qualifying social welfare payments**. However, if you are getting **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension**, you **automatically qualify for WPEP,** and **you don’t need to be unemployed** for the last 6 months. Same as CE schemes, WPEP opportunities are advertised online, on Jobs Ireland website: [Home - JobsIreland.ie](https://jobsireland.ie/)

To learn more about WPEP, visit Citizen Information through the following link: [Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP) (citizensinformation.ie)](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/unemployment_and_redundancy/employment_support_schemes/work_placement_experience_programme.html)

The **Tús** scheme is a community work placement scheme for people who are long-term unemployed. It provides work experience and training opportunities in local communities which include environmental, caring, general community, educational, heritage and cultural services.

If you are in receipt of **Disability Allowance**, are **18 or older** and **fully unemployed**, you can self-refer for Tús scheme. Participants work **19.5 hours a week** and the placement lasts **12 months**. If you wish to self-refer, you should get in touch with your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.

To learn more about Tús, visit Citizen Information through the following link: [Tús (citizensinformation.ie)](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/unemployment_and_redundancy/employment_support_schemes/tus.html)

The **Part-Time Job Incentive (PTJI) Scheme** is designed for individuals who have been receiving Jobseeker's Allowance for longer than 15 months. This program enables them to engage in part-time employment and receive a Part-time Job Allowance in place of the Jobseeker's Allowance, as a steppingstone towards full time employment.

To learn more about Part-Time Job Incentive, visit Citizen Information through the following link: [Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme (citizensinformation.ie)](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/social_welfare_payments_and_work/part_time_job_incentive_scheme.html)

The **Community Services Programme (CSP)** aims to empower community businesses by offering financial assistance and fostering employment opportunities for marginalized individuals. This initiative provides vital support to community companies and co-operatives by helping them cover the expenses associated with hiring staff. By focusing on communities facing a lack of public and private sector services, whether due to geographical or social isolation, or limited demand, the CSP plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges and promoting local development.

To learn more about Community Services Programme, visit Citizen Information through the following link: [Community Services Programme (citizensinformation.ie)](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/unemployment_and_redundancy/employment_support_schemes/community_services_programme.html)