

# CORK CITY PARTNERSHIP WEEKLY BULLETIN UPDATE

## Friendly Call

Cork City Partnership Friendly Call Service is a free phone call service for people living alone and is available to older people and anyone feeling lonely, isolated. Friendly Call operates 5 days a week. We have significantly increased the capacity of Friendly Call to respond to increased demand during the current crisis. We now have over 300 clients now and a range of volunteers from CCP and other agencies who make the calls all of whom are doing wonderful work with FC at the moment. Our team will ring individuals to check in with them and ensure that they are ok and chat to them about their worries and arrange practical supports where possible. If you know anyone who would benefit from this service please contact Brenda Barry on 087 6366407 or [Brenda.Barry@partnershipcork.ie](mailto:Brenda.Barry@partnershipcork.ie)

## Employment and Self-Employment Supports from Cork City Partnership.

Cork City Partnership is open for business and although our physical offices remain closed in accordance with the Government COVID-19 guidelines our eleven Employment Specialists can still be reached at [Info@partnershipcork.ie](mailto:Info@partnershipcork.ie) or on 0214302310

Over the past few weeks we have been in contact with over 700 people who are currently unemployed, some of these are our existing clients but many are people who have only recently become unemployed so you do not have to be an existing customer to avail of our free service. We can provide you with friendly understanding and expert support. Even just having someone to talk to, who understands your situation, can be helpful in these challenging times.

### *Welfare Payments Advice*

Each person's circumstances are different. Your questions can be complex and require an individual response. Our employment specialists have an expert knowledge on Social Welfare Payments, including the new payments which have been put in place in response to Covid19 and can talk you through your own personal circumstance, confidentially, to guide you through which payment you can apply for and other payments you may qualify for, e.g. fuel allowance, medical card etc.

### **DEASP Payments**

Workers who have lost their jobs due to the crisis will receive an enhanced emergency COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment of €350 per week (an increase from €203)

[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

### *Job Seeking*

There is still a lot you can do from home with regard to job seeking. You can update your C.V. You can also upskill and improve your job opportunities through online training. There are several online courses both free and fee paying

## Education/Courses

Cork City Partnership is continuing to offer various courses such as Pilates through its online platforms. Please see our Facebook page contact 021 4302310 or further information

## TÚS

Our colleagues from Tús continue to support the Friendly Call Service through delivery of shopping etc. to clients. The service is also available for Meals on Wheels deliveries across the city. Please contact 021 4302310 for further information.

available which will help you to grow your skills and we can guide you through these. Also there are jobs currently available such as staff for supermarkets, we have information on what is currently available and we update this daily. We will also help you practice for online interviews, and see our Tips on this this in next week's bulletin.

## Support for Self Employed

Since the Covid 19 Emergency began we have seen a rise in the number of enquiries from self-employed people. They are mostly sole traders and employers who are seeking information and advice about the supports available to help them through this difficult time. This is indeed a very stressful time for business owners.

At Cork City Partnership our Enterprise team have been in contact with almost 300 self-employed people during the last few weeks and we continue to provide support and guidance to them by phone and email. This service is free and open to anyone who is self-employed and affected by the pandemic.

### DEASP Payments

Self-employed will be eligible for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment of €350 directly from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (rather than the Revenue scheme)

Temporary wage subsidy of 70% of take home pay up to a maximum weekly tax free amount of €410 per week to help affected companies keep paying their employees. This is the equivalent of €500 per week before tax.

### Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme Update:

Subsidies for those with previous average net pay up to 412 euro per week will be increased from 70% to 85%

For those employees with previous average net pay between 412 and 500 the subsidy will be up to 350 per week

Where an employer wishes to pay a greater level of top up to bring employees pay to 350 per week then tapering will not be applied to the subsidy

See [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) for more details.

## C o v i d - 1 9 C o m m u n i t y R e s p o n s e F o r u m (C R F)

Local authorities across the country have been tasked with coordinating the community response to the Covid-19 crisis. A Covid-19 Community Response Forum (CRF) is now in place in Cork to ensure that vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access vital; grocery, medicine and fuel deliveries and social care supports.

**A dedicated helpline is available from 8am-8pm, seven days a week. The Cork City Covid-19 CRF helpline is 1800-222-226. Support can also be accessed via [covidsupport@corkcity.ie](mailto:covidsupport@corkcity.ie)**

We provide advice on supports available to self-employed people and how to make an application for the Covid 19 Emergency payments and we inform employers about the wage subsidy scheme.

We are also support self-employed people around all the other aspects involved in keeping the business going or planning for the future on re-opening the business. So give us a call on 021 4302310 or on [info@partnershipcork.ie](mailto:info@partnershipcork.ie)

### Useful Examples of FAQ

#### Q. Working Family Payment Query

**A.** If an individual aged 18-66 who had been working and was also in receipt of any social welfare payment such as a Carer's Payment, Working Family Payment (WFP) or One-Parent Family Payment, can, provided they have lost their job due to COVID-19, also claim the COVID-19 emergency payment, in addition to retaining their existing welfare payment.

#### Q. My medical card is expiring soon, what must I do?

**A.** No need to contact National Medical Card Unit, it will be extended for one year you will automatically receive a letter with your extended card.

#### Q. Can I claim the Covid19 payment if I am a casual or part-time worker in receipt of Jobseekers allowance and lost my job?

**A.** Yes you can apply for the payment and social welfare will let you know if you are better off on jobseekers payment or COV19 payment depending on how many dependents you have.

#### Q. I lost my job due to COVID19, can I get my rent adjusted with City Council?

**A.** Yes, the form for rent adjustment is available on [www.corkcity.ie](http://www.corkcity.ie) or contact us on (021) 4302310 and we can post you a form

#### Q I am self-isolating and on social welfare, what must I do?

**A.** If your only income is a social welfare payment and you are medically required to self-isolate or you are diagnosed with COVID-19, you will continue to get your social welfare payment and you do not need to apply for illness benefit.

**Q** I am unable to collect my payment from the post offices due self-isolation, what must I do?

**A** - You have 3 options

- Leave your payment at the post office until you can collect it yourself.
- Nominate a temporary Agent to collect your payment. You can get a form for appointing a temporary Agent on the An Post website (pdf).
- Apply to transfer your payment to your personal account at a bank, building society or at certain credit unions.

**Q.** Can I do online training?

**A.** Yes, eCollege is running and is available for free.

## Home is not always the safest place during the Covid-19 crisis

The Department of Justice and Equality is launching a new campaign as concern increases about the impact of the Covid-19 emergency on the safety of women and children affected by domestic abuse. Women's Aid feel that a 'Perfect Storm' of circumstances is increasing the danger facing women being abused by their partners. Women self-isolating and working from home more at risk from an abusive partner including being more exposed to their controlling behaviour, verbal abuse and violence. There is an expected increase in the number of incidents of domestic abuse and the severity of violence as a result of the current crisis. Go to [www.stillhere.ie](http://www.stillhere.ie) for further information on support services available.

CCP continues to work closely with all its clients during this difficult time for people.

Cork City Partnership 021 4302310  
[info@partnershipcork.ie](mailto:info@partnershipcork.ie)



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