



# SUPPORTS FOR WESTMEATH RETAIL BUSINESSES

## Shopfront Enhancement Grant Scheme

Westmeath County Council is offering grants of up to €6,000 (exclusive of VAT) for business owners to improve the building facades of their properties.

This grant can fund 75% of third-party costs of enhancing a shopfront, to a maximum of €4,500 for solo projects. For collaboration projects of three or more adjoining properties, the maximum grant permitted is 75% of costs (exclusive of VAT) up to a maximum of €6,000. Where a business undertakes works to improve accessibility for elderly or people with disabilities, the maximum grant permitted is 75% of costs (exclusive of VAT) up to a maximum of €6,000. Eligible works include:

- repair or replacement of shopfronts
- repair or replacement of windows or doors
- awnings or canopies
- painting
- signage

Previous grant recipients may apply for a second grant.

*A full list of eligible works, terms & conditions and online application link is available at:*

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Westmeath/Financial-Supports/Shopfront-Enhancement-Grant-Scheme/>

## Trading Online Voucher Grant

The Trading Online Voucher is a grant of up to €2,500 (exclusive of VAT) towards the cost of boosting your business' online trading potential.

It is open to all small businesses that are trading at least 6 months, have 10 or less employees and a turnover of max €2 million.

This grant can fund 50% of third-party costs, to a maximum of €2,500, and includes:

- IT consultation
- Development or upgrade of an e-commerce website
- Implementing online payments or booking systems
- Purchase of Internet related software
- Purchase of online advertising
- Developing an app (or multiplatform webpages)
- Implementing a digital marketing strategy
- Training/skills development specifically to establish & manage an on-line trading activity

*A full list of terms & conditions and online application link is available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Westmeath/Financial-Supports/Trading-Online-Voucher-Scheme/>*

## Business Advice, Training & Mentoring

The Local Enterprise Office provides a range of training programmes, one-to-one meeting clinics and mentoring to small businesses. Through this range of offerings, LEO Westmeath can offer help and advice on issues and challenges that face small businesses in Westmeath, such as business planning, marketing, finance, social media or website issues, management development, HR & employment queries and more.

*A list of current courses and clinics can be viewed on the website: [www.localenterprise.ie/Westmeath](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Westmeath)*

For more information contact the Local Enterprise Office Westmeath on **(044) 933 8945**  
or via email to [localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie)



# SUPPORTS FOR WESTMEATH RETAIL BUSINESSES

## Microfinance Ireland

Micro Finance Ireland (MFI), is a not-for-profit lender, established to deliver the Government's Microenterprise Loan Fund. MFI works closely with Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), providing loans to small businesses. LEO Westmeath works with and on behalf of clients to prepare and put forward applications to Microfinance Ireland for loan funding.

MFI offers loan funding from €5,000 to €25,000 to both new and existing businesses.

*For more information on the loan packages available please visit Microfinance Ireland website: <https://microfinanceireland.ie/>*

## Lean for Micro

The LEAN for Micro programme is open to small-to-medium businesses trading for at least 6 months. Lean For Micro is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to reduce costs and increase performance and competitiveness. Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation. In a nutshell, Lean is about doing things quicker, better and saving costs.

Lean is free of charge to clients and consists of a 5-day consultancy assignment in which a consultant will analyse your day-to-day processes and find ways of improvement with the objective of becoming more efficient.

## Green for Micro

Green for Micro is a FREE programme that helps small businesses take the first step towards becoming more sustainable, giving you access to a green consultant who'll show you the small changes that can have a big impact on your company - and the world around you.

This is a 2.5 day consultancy programme in which a green consultant will conduct an energy audit on your business.

The Green for Micro programme is suitable for all micro-enterprises with up to ten employees, that is trading for at least 6 months.

## Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS)

The TBESS was introduced to support businesses with increases in their electricity or natural gas (energy) costs.

Qualifying businesses can claim for 40% of the increases in their energy bills.

A claim period is a calendar month from September 2022 to February 2023. A reference period is the corresponding calendar month in the previous year. For example, September 2021 is the reference period for the September 2022 claim period.

*Further information on the scheme can be found here: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/starting-a-business/tbess/index.aspx>*

For more information contact the Local Enterprise Office Westmeath on **(044) 933 8945**  
or via email to **[localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie)**