



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Citizens Assembly on Drug Use

Intreo Employment Supports and Services

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Assistant Secretary
30th September 2023

Community Employment (CE) Overview



- The Department operates a wide ranging employment support service, based around part time work and training (e.g. CE where the participant works 19.5 hours per week)
- Provides work experience and training opportunities for disadvantaged and unemployed people within their communities.
- **Key elements** in respect to drug rehab;
 - **Flexibility** with regard to eligibility conditionality
 - **Flexibility** with regard to attendance and the work/personal development
- CE schemes are well suited to supporting people in drug rehab and vulnerable customers as they are embedded in local communities and engaged in significant levels of service support and delivery.
- The Department meets with a Drug Advisory Group regularly to review progress and the effectiveness of its programmes in supporting the sector.

CE Drug Rehabilitation Schemes (places)



- **1,000** CE drug rehabilitation places are ring-fenced to address the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged long term unemployed people in recovery from addiction.
- **5%** of CE placements are reserved to support the re-integration of participants referred to a CE place, on a drug rehabilitation scheme through the delivery of the agreed inter-agency CE Drug Rehabilitation.
- The Department's primary response to the actions arising from the National Drugs Strategy.

CE Drug Rehabilitation Schemes (organisation)



- 45 dedicated CE drug rehabilitation schemes.
- The ratio of Participants to CE Supervisors is also lower than mainstream CE at 7:1
- Referred participants can also access places on general CE programmes.

Qualifying Conditions for CE



- CE Mainstream places: the qualifying age for CE places is 21 years & in receipt of a qualifying DSP Jobseekers/One Parent Family payment for 12+ months.
- CE Drug Rehabilitation placements: the qualifying age for entry is 18+ years. The person must be referred by a recognised drug rehabilitation service or agency with no waiting time.
- CE Drug Rehab participants: Maybe eligible for up to 4 years on a drug rehabilitation placement. In exceptional circumstances an additional 1 year may be completed on a mainstream CE programme

Qualifying Conditions for CE – Ex Offenders



- Ex-offenders can participate on CE from the age of 18+ but must be referred by a number of agencies such as The Probation Service; IASIOs Service; The Linkage Service, the Irish Prison Service etc
- These individuals do not need to be in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment.
- Ex-offenders aged 18 and over and not referred by these Services must be in receipt of a qualifying payment for 12 months or more to qualify for CE. *Note:* Time spent in prison is regarded as reckonable when considering duration unemployed.
- In addition, prisoners released on Temporary Release are considered eligible for application.

Benefits of CE (Participant)



- Meaningful work experience & development of skills.
- Build confidence, self-esteem & self-worth.
- Supportive environment: coaching and mentoring from the Supervisor/CE Sponsor.
- Access to, and financial support for, education & training.
- Flexible hours (19 ½) for participants.
- PRSI 'A' contribution paid (paid employment).
- Progress to sustainable full-time employment / self-employment.
- Medical card retained while on an employment programme.

Other Supports & Services Provided by Intreo PES



Payment Supports for those Undergoing Residential Rehabilitation

- Continued receipt of a Jobseeker's payment for up to 14 weeks for persons undergoing a course of rehabilitation in a treatment centre.

Involvement with Outside Bodies

- SICAP- Referrals from DSP make up a significant proportion of access routes to SICAP.
- Typical supports for Jobseekers under SICAP include initiatives such as the Red Door Addiction Service.
- Providing cross agency collaboration with other organisations nationally in respect of Employment Supports for those experiencing addiction issues.

IASIO (IPS & PS) & DSP



- Ex-offenders experiencing addiction issues are offered additional support by their Training and Education Officer (TEO) from IASIO.
- DSP excludes IASIO clients from normal process for 12-months.
- Streamlined approach to engagement with Employment Personal Advisers in Intreo PES. This addresses issues experienced by this cohort when dealing with Employment Services (ES), and allows for participation in rehabilitative supports such as AA, NA, etc.
- During this period customers are not subject to reduced rates.

Further information available at



Thank you