

Commercial Incentive Grant Scheme 2021

Kildare County Council, at the November 2020 plenary meeting, approved an incentive scheme to encourage the use of vacant commercial premises in town and village centres in the County. An attractive, vibrant commercial area contributes positively to a location's retail and economic growth, boosting footfall and street activity, thereby encouraging a longer stay by shoppers and visitors, resulting in increased consumer spending in local businesses.

As a complement to the highly successful Shop Fronts Grants Scheme already available through Economic Development Unit, Kildare County Council has developed a mechanism to address the issue of vacant units in the village and town centres. This scheme provides an additional support to entrepreneurs wishing to start-up businesses in our town and village centres.

Eligible Properties

- The Scheme runs from the 1st of January 2021 to 31st December 2021 and is only applicable to commercial properties in town or village centres that have been previously occupied and vacant for at least 2 years, or properties not previously occupied and vacant for 5 years
- All local authority charges related to the property, including Commercial Rates, must be paid in full each year in order to qualify for the grant

Eligible Applicants

- The grant applicant must be the rateable occupier of the property.
- The scheme is available to new businesses or those expanding into a new location
- All local authority charges owed by the applicant, including Commercial Rates, must be paid in full each year in order to qualify for the grant
- Actual occupation of less than 1 year will not qualify for the grant
- The use of the property should comply with appropriate Planning guidance
- The Applicant must be able to submit a copy of their Tax Clearance Certificate

Non Qualifying Business Activities

The following business activities will not be considered for the Grant:

Charity Shops	Betting Shops
Amusement arcades / premises with gaming machines	E-Cigarette Shops
Adult Shops	Cash for Gold / Cash for Clothes Shops
Nightclubs / Private Members Clubs	Banks
Moneylenders	Off-licences
Takeaways	Pop-up Shops
End of lines/Closing down / Euro or Discount Stores	Multiples and/or franchises where the owner has > 3 units

Grant Details:

A grant will be payable to successful applicants over a period of up to 3 years, based on the commercial rates payable for the premises, as follows:

- **End of Year 1**
Grant payable equivalent to 75% of rates paid for the relevant year, subject to a maximum of €7,500 (ie 75% * €10,000)
- **End of Year 2**
Grant payable equivalent to 50% of rates paid for the relevant year, subject to a maximum of €5,000 (ie 50% * €10,000)
- **End of Year 3**
Grant payable equivalent to 25% of rates paid for the relevant year, subject to a maximum of €2,500 (ie 25% * €10,000)

The applicant may choose to receive grant payments in the year they commence business, or in the following year, which would be the first full calendar year they are in business.

Example:

Business A commences trading from a previously vacant premises on the 1st June 2021 and qualifies for the grant. The full year rates liability on the premises is €4,000.

If Business A requests that the first grant payment is made in 2021, the following grants apply over the three-year period:

Grant Year	Rates Paid	Grant Payable
2021	€2,000 (June – December)	€1,500 (75% of rates paid for year)
2022	€4,000 (full year)	€2,000 (50% of rates paid for year)
2023	€4,000 (full year)	€1,000 (25% of rates paid for year)

If Business A requests that the first grant payment is made in 2022, the following grants apply over the three-year period:

Grant Year	Rates Paid	Grant Payable
2022	€4,000 (full year)	€3,000 (75% of rates paid for year)
2023	€4,000 (full year)	€2,000 (50% of rates paid for year)
2024	€4,000 (full year)	€1,000 (25% of rates paid for year)

Grant payments will be made in the fourth quarter of each applicable year.

Application Process

Applications will only be accepted through our online portal.

Further Information

Please contact rates@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980656