

Q.8. Is the job permanent?

No. The position will be reviewed after each twelve-month period and participants can re-apply for the next period. If over-subscribed a waiting list system will operate.

Q.9. Can participants undertake other work?

As RSS is additional to the primary farming/ fishing work, participants can earn an income from outside their primary income of farming/fishing, but must remain within the income threshold which applies to their underlying Social Welfare payment.

Q.10. Can my Spouse Participate in the RSS Scheme?

If you are eligible and do not wish to participate, your spouse can take the available place as long as neither of you are participating in any other similar scheme.

Q.11. How will I be paid?

You will be paid weekly and will be issued with a pay slip.

Q.12. How much will participants be paid?

The following table is an indication of possible weekly payments:

Participant without adult dependant	€210.50
Participant with adult dependant	€335.30
Each child dependant	€ 29.80
Each child dependant (half Rate)	€ 14.90

Q.13. Can I retain Medical Card and other Benefits?

It is likely that as a participant you will be allowed to retain certain secondary benefits such as:

- Medical card
- Fuel allowance
- Back to school clothing allowance etc.

You should check with your local Social Welfare Office.

For Further Information Please Contact:

The Rural Social Scheme
Offaly Local Development Company
Millennium House, Main Street,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly
Tel: 057 9352467/22850
Fax: 057 9352574
E-mail: info@offalyldc.ie
Web: www.offalyldc.ie

OFFICES AT: CRANK HOUSE, BANAGHER 057 9151622 • JKL STREET (above Library), EDENDERRY 046 9732688



RSS

The Rural Social

Scheme

Participants Your Questions Answered



Offaly Local Development Company

Q.1. What is the Rural Social Scheme (RSS)?

The Rural Social Scheme was initiated by Mr. Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The RSS is designed to provide income support for farmers and fishermen who are currently in receipt of long-term social welfare payments, and to provide certain services of benefit to rural communities. The RSS will allow those low-income farmers and fishermen to earn a supplementary income by working in a community setting

Q.2. Who is administering the RSS?

The Scheme will be administered in County Offaly by the Offaly Local Development Company.

Q.3. What is involved for participants?

Eligible participants will work 19.5 hours per week with some flexibility depending on local projects. We will try our best to match you up with local projects that will allow you to use your skill base and learn new skills within a community close to you.

Q.4. What types of projects can be undertaken under the Scheme?

The Scheme is designed to facilitate the needs of rural communities. The following list indicates the types of projects that are considered eligible under the Scheme:

- Maintaining and enhancing way-marked ways, agreed walks and bog roads
- Energy conservation work for the elderly and less well off
- Village and countryside enhancement projects
- Social care and care of the elderly, community care for both pre-school and after-school groups
- Environmental maintenance work-caretaking of community & sporting facilities
- Projects relating to not for profit cultural and heritage centres
- Community Administration/Clerical Duties

**Any other appropriate
community projects**

www.offalyldc.ie
info@offalyldc.ie

Q.5. What are the benefits of the RSS to rural communities?

The RSS will provide additional resources to maintain and improve local amenities and facilities in rural communities.

Communities will benefit from the skills of local farmers/ fishermen. Participants will undertake valuable work in the community. It will free up Tús & CE places for other participants.

Q.6. How many places are available in Offaly?

There are 52 places allocated to County Offaly on the RSS.

Q.7. Can I participate in the RSS Scheme?

The RSS is open to those in receipt of **Farm Assist** or those having a **Herd Number** and are in receipt of one of the following long-term social welfare payments.

- Job Seekers Allowance
- Disability Allowance
- Widow's/Widower pension
- One Parent family allowance

You will also need to have applied for the **Basic Payment Scheme** online at www.agriculture.gov.ie