

Entitlements for People with Disabilities

with Supplementary Budget Changes

Payments for People with Disabilities

Paid by the Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA)

Weekly maximum rates

Payments	Personal rate		Qualified adult	
Illness Benefit	204.30		135.60	
Invalidity Pension	Under 65	Over 65	Under 66	Over 66
	209.80	230.30	149.70	206.30
Disability Allowance	204.30		135.60	
Blind Pension	204.30		135.60	
Supplementary Welfare Allowance	204.30		135.60	
Disablement Benefit	€235.40 (maximum personal pension)			

Increase per qualified child €26.00

Additional payments

Domiciliary Care Allowance (monthly)	309.50 per child
Over-80 Increase	10.00
Living Alone Increase	7.70
Fuel Allowance :	Standard Rate - €20 per week
32 weeks (Sept - May)	Smokeless Fuel Area - €23.90 per week

Useful Contacts

Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA)

Lo-call (Information Line) - 1890 66 22 44 Website - www.welfare.ie

Health Service Executive (HSE)

Call Save - 1850 24 1850 Website - www.hse.ie

The Revenue Commissioners Website - www.revenue.ie

FAS

Jobs Ireland Lo-call - 1800 611 116 Website - www.fas.ie

Citizens Information Board

DROP IN - 260 Locations Nationwide

LO-CALL (Information Line) - 1890 777 121 'Monday to Friday' 9am - 9pm

WEBSITE - www.citizensinformation.ie

Social Insurance (PRSI) Payments

Illness Benefit

- ▶ Short-term payment based on PRSI Contributions for those who are unable to work due to illness.
- ▶ Not paid for the first 3 days of illness.
- ▶ Apply within 7 days of becoming ill.
- ▶ To claim Illness Benefit get a first social welfare medical certificate (which includes a claim form) from your doctor.
- ▶ Payment is limited to 104 weeks (2 years) for new claimants with 260 (5 years) contributions (from January 2009).
- ▶ Claimants with between 104 and 259 contributions qualify for up to 52 weeks payment.
- ▶ Invalidity Pension may be claimed if the illness / disability persists.

Invalidity Pension

- ▶ Long-term payment for people with sufficient paid / credited PRSI and permanently incapable of work because of illness or disability.
- ▶ Claimant may also get Free Travel and Household Benefits.
- ▶ Apply on Form INV1 to your Social Welfare Local Office or Invalidity Pensions New Claims Section, DSFA, Longford.

Housing

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability

Means tested grant to make a house suitable for a person with a disability. Maximum grant is €30,000.

Mobility Aids Grant Scheme

Fast tracked means tested grants for mobility equipment in the home (up to 100% of costs with maximum of €6,000). Primarily for older people but people with disability can access the scheme. Available to people with a maximum household income of less than €30,000. *You cannot apply for both the Mobility Aids Grant and the Housing Adaptation Grant.*

Housing Aid for Older People

The Housing Aid for Older People means tested scheme provides grants to improve the houses of older people (over 60 generally). Maximum grant is €10,500. *To apply for all these grants contact the Housing Department of your local authority.*

Means Tested Payments

Disability Allowance

- ▶ Long-term means tested social welfare payment for people between 16 and 66 with a disability that is expected to last at least a year.
- ▶ Apply on Form DA1 to Social Welfare Local Office or Disability Allowance Section, DSFA, Longford.

Blind Pension

- ▶ Long-term means tested payment made to people, aged between 18 and 65, who are blind or have low vision.
- ▶ Can be paid with other SW payments including Illness Benefit and Widow/er's Pensions.
- ▶ Apply on Form BP1 to Blind Pension Section, DSFA, Sligo.

Blind Welfare Allowance

- ▶ Supplementary HSE payment to a person who is :-
 - blind or has low vision,
 - is getting Blind Pension or Disability Allowance,
 - and needs extra support.
- ▶ Apply to your Local Health Office.

Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA)

- ▶ Means tested payment for people who do not qualify for other payments and cannot meet their needs from their own means.
- ▶ Includes other financial supports : rent and mortgage interest supplements, payments for urgent needs and emergencies.
- ▶ People with specific disability related extra needs may be eligible for a special needs supplement (for example heating or dietary needs).
- ▶ The HSE sets a maximum rent supplement at local level. The tenants minimum contribution is €24 from 1st June '09.
- ▶ Administered by HSE Community Welfare Officers.

Transport

Free Travel Pass

- ▶ Free travel is available on public transport and some private bus and ferry services for those aged 66 or over and to some people under age 66 getting specific disability payments.

Companion Travel Pass

Certain people, medically assessed as being unfit to travel alone, can have someone aged 16 or over accompany them free of charge.

- ▶ Apply on Form FT1 available from Social Welfare Local Offices and from Free Schemes Section, DSFA, Sligo.

Disabled Drivers and Passengers Tax Relief

- ▶ Relief for drivers or passengers with physical disabilities (with a Primary Medical Certificate from the HSE) who use a specially adapted vehicle.
- ▶ Contact - Disabled Drivers Section, Central Repayments Office, Revenue Commissioners, Coolshannagh, Co. Monaghan. Telephone - (047) 38010.

Disabled Drivers Parking Card

- ▶ Available to drivers or passengers with disabilities, aged 5 or over, for use in any car in which they travel.
- ▶ Cost €25.
- ▶ Application Forms available from :
 - Irish Wheelchair Association, National Mobility Centre, Ballinagappa Road, Clane, Co. Kildare. Telephone - (045) 893 094 Website - www.iwa.ie
 - Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland, Parking Card Section, Ballindine, Co. Mayo. Telephone - (094) 936 4266 Website - www.ddai.ie