

Further Information:

- ◆ Citizen Information– 1890 777 121 Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, www.citizensinformation.ie
- ◆ Department of Social & Family affairs
1890 66 22 44
- ◆ HSE, Head office, Naas– 045 880 400
- ◆ HSE information line- 1850 24 1850,
www.hse.ie
- ◆ www.welfare.ie

This leaflet is compiled by the
Social Work Department, KARE,
Mc Mahon Centre, Kilcullen.
PH 045-480200

Social Welfare Payments & Entitlements

Please note this information is a basic guide and does not provide all qualifying conditions for payments, for more information please contact the above agencies.



**A guide to welfare
entitlements for service
users and their carers.**

Disability Allowance:

Disability Allowance is a weekly allowance paid to people with a specified disability who are between 16 and 65 years of age. A medical assessment may be required. This is means tested payment based on the means of the person claiming the payment.

Domiciliary Carer's Allowance:

The Domiciliary Carer's Allowance is a monthly means tested payment made to the carer of a child with a severe disability who lives at home. The child must be aged under 16 (at 16, the child can apply for disability allowance must live at home, must need substantially more constant care and attention than a child of the same age who does not have a disability and satisfy a means test, based only on the child's income.

Carer's Allowance :

Carer's Allowance is a payment to those who are looking after someone who is in need of support because of age, physical or learning disability or illness, including mental illness. The Carer's Allowance is not payable to everyone, it is mainly aimed at carers on low incomes who live with and look after certain people who need full-time care and attention. You must not be engaged in employment, self-employment, training or education courses outside the home for more than 15 hours a week. You may also be entitled to half rate carer's allowance if you are receiving certain Social welfare payments.

Medical Card:

A medical card issued by the HSE which allows the holder to receive certain health services free of charge. Medical cards are granted on the basis of a means test and/or medical need.

Respite Care Grant :

The Respite Care Grant is an annual cash payment made to carers. If you are getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit, Constant Attendance Allowance or Prescribed Relative's Allowance you do not need to apply for the Respite Care Grant. It will be automatically paid to you in June. The grant is paid to those getting one of the payments mentioned above. If you are not getting one of the above payments, to be eligible you must be caring for the person on a full-time basis and not working more than 15 hours per week outside the home.

Free Travel:

You may be entitled to free travel if you are getting Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, Carer's allowance or an Invalidity Pension. Free travel is available on Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus, Dart and Luas Services and on certain private bus and ferry services. If you are unable to travel alone for medical reasons, you may get a companion free travel pass which allows a person over the age of 16 to accompany you free of charge.

Mobility Allowance:

The Mobility Allowance is a means tested monthly payment payable by the Health Service Executive (HSE) in Ireland to people aged between 16 and 66 who have a disability and are unable to walk or use public transport

National Fuel Scheme:

A Fuel Allowance is a payment which helps with the cost of heating your home. It is paid to people on long-term social welfare or Health Service Executive (HSE) payments. The scheme operates for 32 weeks from the end of September to May.

Household Benefit Package:

If you satisfy a number of conditions, you may qualify for the Household Benefits Package. The Household Benefits Package is made up of:

- ◆ The Electricity Allowance
- ◆ The Natural Gas Allowance
- ◆ The Electricity (Group Account) Allowance
- ◆ The Bottled Gas Refill Allowance
- ◆ The Telephone Allowance
- ◆ The Free Television Licence.

If you are in receipt of disability allowance, invalidity pension, blind pension or carer's allowance and meet certain conditions you may qualify.

Community Welfare Officers:

CWO are based in your local health centres and can assist you financially with a discretionary payment during times of difficulty.

The following are some payments that may be available from the CWO.

- ◆ Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) is for people whose means are insufficient to meet their needs. It can consist of a basic payment and/or a supplement. This is a short term payment.
- ◆ Exceptional needs payment is a once off single payment when a person's expenditure cannot meet their income.
- ◆ Diet Supplement
- ◆ Rent Supplement
- ◆ Back to School Clothing