

# Benefits & Entitlements



Children's  
Disability  
Network  
Team



**CDNT 4: Dunshaughlin/ East Meath 2023**

**Please note the information contained in this leaflet is intended as a guide only.**

Payment rates on some allowances are on graduated basis and qualifying conditions for each benefit and allowance needs to be reviewed on an individual basis with the agency responsible.

There are many other benefit and entitlements not listed here that you may be eligible to apply for. Information on how to apply for all benefits as well as application forms are available on [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

Citizens Information are also available to support in filling out forms if you are having any difficulties and can advise you as to which benefits you are eligible to apply for.

You can contact your local Citizens Information Centre by phone and email for information and advice. In-person appointments are also available in many locations nationwide. You can also call the Citizens Information Phone Service on 0818 07 4000, Monday to Friday, 9am-8pm.

Ashbourne CIC

Unit 43, High Street, Ashbourne, Ashbourne, A84 FX66

Phone: 0818 07 6110 (If calling from outside Ireland - 01 - 6801851)

Navan CIC

Floor 2,, 1 Cannon Row, Navan, C15 XR8Y

Phone: 0818 07 6150 (If calling from outside Ireland - 046 - 9062391)

Trim CIC

3 Haggard Street, Trim, C15 C942

Phone: 0818 07 6180 (If calling from outside Ireland - 046 - 9456071)

## **Table of Contents:**

Carers Allowance	4
Carers Benefit	5
Carers Leave	6
Carers Support Grant (Respite Care Grant)	6
Child Benefit	7
Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)	8
Disability Allowance (DA)	10
Aids Allowances and Assistive Technology	11
Back to School Clothing and footwear Allowance	12
Drug Payment Scheme	12
European Health Insurance Card	13
Long Term Illness Card	14
Medical Card	15
GP Visit Card	17
Medical Expenses	18
Free Preschool (ECCE)	18
Education	19
School Transport	20
Home Tuition	21
Summer Provision	22
Working Family Payment	23
Incapacitated Child Tax Credit	24
Home Carers Tax Credit	24
Housing Adaptations Grant	25
Mobility Grant Scheme	27
Local Property Tax Exemptions	28
Home Support	28
Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers scheme	29
Disabled Parking Permits Scheme	29
Toll Bridge	30
Useful Contacts and websites	31

## **Carers Allowance (means tested)**

Carer's Allowance is a payment to people on low incomes who are looking after a person who needs support because of age, disability or illness (including mental illness).

**You cannot get a Carer's Allowance for a child under 16 years of age unless Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is being paid on behalf of that child.**

If you qualify for Carer's Allowance you may also qualify for free household benefits (if you are living with the person you are caring for) and a Free Travel Pass.

If you are unhappy with a decision about your application, you can make an appeal to the Social Welfare Appeals Office. You should appeal within 21 days of getting the decision.

The maximum weekly rate for carers allowance is €236 for parents under 66 years, with a qualified child rate of €42 (full rate), €21 (half rate) for a child under 12 and €50 (full rate), €25 (half rate) for a child aged 12 and over (this payment is for any additional child within the household that meet the age criteria regardless of whether or not they have additional needs themselves). A full rate increase for a dependent child is paid with carer's allowance if you are parenting alone, half rate increase applies otherwise.

To apply, fill in an application form for Carer's Allowance (CR1) which is available from your Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Branch Office or Citizens Information Centre.

Completed forms can be sent to **Department of Social Protection:**

Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road

Longford  
Ireland  
**Tel:** (043) 334 0000 or 0818 927 770  
**Email:** [Carersallowance@welfare.ie](mailto:Carersallowance@welfare.ie)

## **Carers Benefit**

Carer's Benefit is a payment made to people insured under PRSI, who leave the workforce to care for a person(s) in need of full-time care and attention.

You can get Carer's Benefit for a total period of 104 weeks (2 years) for each person being cared for. This may be claimed as a single continuous period or in any number of separate periods up to a total of 104 weeks. However, if you claim Carer's Benefit for less than six consecutive weeks in any given period you must wait for a further six weeks before you can claim Carer's Benefit to care for the same person again.

If you are caring for more than one person, you may receive payment for each care recipient for 104 weeks. This may result in the care periods overlapping or running concurrently.

If you get Carer's Benefit, you are eligible for a GP visit card.

Carers benefit is paid at a rate of €237 per week and for a dependent child under 12 years of age €42 (full rate) €21 (half rate). For a child aged 12 years and over €50 (full rate) and €25 (half rate). If your dependent child is in full-time education, you may get this increase until the end of the academic year in which the child turns 22.

Carers benefit is a taxable income. Carers can work up to 18.5 hours per week but there is a limit on the amount they can earn and it is subject to tax.

To apply fill in an application form for Carer's Benefit. This form (CARB1) is also available from your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office or from the Carer's Benefit Section. The Department of Social Protection recommends that you apply for Carer's Benefit 10 weeks before you leave employment.

Send completed application forms to:

Department of Social Protection

Carer's Benefit Section

Social Welfare Services Office

Government Buildings

Ballinalee Road

Longford

Ireland

**Tel:** (043) 334 0000 or 0818 927 770

**Email:** [Carersbenefit@welfare.ie](mailto:Carersbenefit@welfare.ie)

## **Carers Leave**

Your right to carer's leave from employment complements the Carer's Benefit Scheme. Carer's leave allows you to leave your employment temporarily for up to 104 weeks to provide full-time care for people in need of full-time care and attention. The leave is unpaid but people who take carer's leave have their jobs kept open for the duration of the leave. You do not have to be eligible for Carer's Benefit to get carer's leave.

The Department of Social Protection must confirm that the person you will be caring for needs that level of care. The first step to getting carer's leave is to complete the application form for Carer's Benefit.

## **Carers Support Grant (Respite Care Grant)**

The Carer's Support Grant is paid to carers once a year by the Department of Social Protection (DSP). It used to be called the Respite Care Grant.

This is not a means tested allowance but is subject to some conditions. It is automatically paid if you are in receipt of carers allowance, carers benefit, domiciliary care allowance or guardians payment. You do not qualify if you are working more than 15 hours per week outside the home, if you are taking part in a training course for more than 18.5 hours a week, if you are getting a job seekers payment or if you are signing on for job seekers credits.

In June of each year (usually on the first Thursday of the month), the DSP pays the grant automatically to carers getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit, or Domiciliary Care Allowance. Only one Carer's Support Grant can be paid for each person getting care.

## **Child Benefit**

Child Benefit is a monthly payment to the parents or guardians of children under 16 years of age. You can get Child Benefit for children aged 16 and 17, if they are in full-time education or full-time training or have a disability and cannot support themselves.

1 Child €140, 2 children €280, 3 children €420. Twins are paid at 1.5 times the rate and triplets are paid at double the rate.

If your baby is born in Ireland, you will need to register the birth of your baby within 3 months of the birth. After you do this, the Department of Social Protection (DSP) will begin a Child Benefit claim for your child.

If your child was not born in Ireland, or if you did not register their birth within 3 months, you must fill in Child Benefit form CB1 and send it to the Child Benefit Section.

**Child Benefit Section**

Department of Social Protection

Social Welfare Services Office

St Oliver Plunkett Road

Letterkenny

Co. Donegal

F92 T449

**Tel:** (074) 916 4496

**Locall:** 1890 400 400

**Email:** [Child.benefit@welfare.ie](mailto:Child.benefit@welfare.ie)

**Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)**

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is a monthly payment for a child aged under 16 with a severe disability. The child must need ongoing care and attention substantially over and above that usually needed by a child of the same age. It is not means tested.

You can find out more about what severe or substantially means in the DCA Medical Guidelines. It is used by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) when it is assessing applications for DCA. The guidelines state that the **payment is not based on the type of disability, but on the level of physical or mental impairment which results in the child needing substantially more care and attention than another child of the same age.**

The Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) rate is €330 per month.

To apply, fill in a Domiciliary Care Allowance form. You can also get an application form by texting “FORM DCA” followed by your name and address to 51909 (standard text rates apply) or by dropping into your



Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office or local Citizens Information Service.

You should complete Parts 1 to 5 of the form. Please ask your child's GP/specialist to fill in parts 6 and 7 (the medical section) of the form. You should also attach any reports or other information you have about your child's disability and the impact it has on their care needs.

Completed applications can be sent to:

Domiciliary Care Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services  
Department of Social Protection  
College Road  
Sligo  
Tel: (071) 9157100

### **Medical Cards are now provided to all children in receipt of DCA**

DomCare3 form: If your child has a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) you are advised to have the medical professional/specialist dealing with your child complete an additional medical form called DomCare3. Please note that completion of this form is optional since medical professionals may have already provided a comprehensive report on your child's medical condition and care needs. **A DomCare3 form is only required if you do not have a recent report from your child's disability or medical services.**

DCA stops when a child reaches 16 so your last DCA payment will be for the month of their 16th birthday. The Department of Social Protection will write to you 3 months before your child's 16th birthday to remind you that DCA will shortly stop and tell you about the available options.

At age 16, your child can apply in their own right for Disability Allowance (DA). Your child should apply a few months before they turn 16, to allow time for their application to be processed.

## **Disability Allowance**

DA is a means-tested payment for people with disabilities who as a result of their disability are substantially restricted in undertaking work that would otherwise be suitable for a person of their age, experience and qualifications. The qualifying conditions for DA are different from the qualifying conditions for DCA, so your child is not automatically entitled to DA because DCA was in payment. The means test for Disability Allowance assesses the means of your child and a parent's income is not taken into account.

The qualifying conditions for DA are different from the qualifying conditions for DCA, so your child is not automatically entitled to DA because DCA was in payment. The means test for Disability Allowance assesses the means of your child and a parent's income is not taken into account.

Weekly maximum personal rate of DA is €220. Adult dependent rate of DA is €146

You can get an application form from your local Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Branch Office, or Citizens Information Centre.

Completed application forms can be sent to:

Disability Allowance Section  
Department of Social Protection  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford  
Ireland  
Tel: (043) 334 0000 or 0818 927 770  
Email: [DA\\_InetInfo@welfare.ie](mailto:DA_InetInfo@welfare.ie)

If you think you have been wrongly refused DA you can appeal this decision.

### **Aids, Allowances and Assistive Technology**

Aids and appliances and assistive technology are recommended based on assessment of need of the individual client by their therapy team i.e. wheelchairs, standing frames, walkers, communication devices.

Applications for funding are made to the HSE. **A child must have a medical card or long-term illness card to receive the equipment for free if approval is given by the HSE. If a child does not have a medical card then it is the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian to fund equipment.**

Vat maybe refunded for certain aids, appliances or technologies purchased by parents using Form Number: VAT 61A. Claim form with supporting documentation to be sent to:

Revenue Commissioners, FREEPOST, Central Payments Office,  
M:TEK 11 Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan.  
Tel: 047 62100,  
LoCall: 1890 606061,  
email: [cromon@revenue.ie](mailto:cromon@revenue.ie)

Alternatively check if payment can be made on Form Med 1 or via private medical insurance. The department of education may supply aids and appliances for use within the school environment.

## **Back to school clothing and footwear allowance**

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BTSCFA) helps you meet the cost of uniforms and footwear for children going to school. It is a means tested payment.

The BTSCFA scheme is open for applications from 21 June 2023 to 30 September 2023.

The BTSCFA is paid automatically to many families in the week beginning 10 July 2023. If you are paid automatically you don't have to apply for the BTSCFA. You will get a letter before 21 June 2023 to let you know that you will be paid automatically.

If you haven't got a letter by 21 June 2023, you must apply for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance online using MyWelfare.ie. If you have a problem applying online you can contact the BTSCFA section on 071 91 93318 or 0818 11 11 13. The Department of Social Protection will help you to apply online or may post you an application form to fill in.

In 2022, the allowance paid for each eligible child aged 4-11 is €260.

In 2022, the allowance paid for each eligible child aged 12-22 is €385.

## **Drugs Payment Scheme**

The Drug Payment Scheme covers families and individuals for the cost of prescribed medication. Under the terms of the scheme no individual or family will have to pay more than €80 per month for approved prescribed medication, drugs or appliances. Apply to the HSE Local Health Care Office, Co. Clinic, Navan, Co. Meath (046) 9021595, at a pharmacy or online at:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/drugs-payment-scheme/apply-for-a-drugs-payment-scheme-card.html>

## **European Health Insurance Card**

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows you to access public healthcare in another EU/EEA state for free or at a reduced rate. You can use it when you are travelling abroad or when you are staying temporarily in another EU State.

- Each family member needs their own card.
- It lasts for up to 4 years.
- You will need to apply to renew your card and you can renew online.
- When abroad, always carry your EHIC with you.
- It will not cover you for healthcare outside of the EU, other than Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein (EEA) and Switzerland.
- It does not cover private healthcare.
- It used to be called the E111 form.

You can apply:

**In person:** at any local health office except, Dublin North West, Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow.

**By post:** Print out an application form which is available on the HSE website or from citizen's information and post it to your local health office along with any documents required.

**Online:** Apply through the HSE website if you have a medical card or drug payment scheme card and you live in Ireland.

## **Long Term Illness Scheme**

If you have a medical condition covered by the Long Term Illness Scheme, you can get free drugs, medicines and medical and surgical appliances for the treatment of that condition.

You must be ordinarily resident in Ireland to qualify. This means that you are living here and intend to live here for at least one year. Students from outside the EU do not qualify for the Long Term Illness Scheme.

The Long Term Illness Scheme does not depend on your income or other circumstances. You may also be eligible for a Medical card or GP visit card, depending on your circumstances.

The medical conditions that qualify under the Long Term Illness Scheme are:

- Intellectual disability
- Mental illness (for people under 16 only)
- Diabetes insipidus
- Diabetes mellitus
- Haemophilia
- Cerebral palsy
- Phenylketonuria
- Epilepsy
- Cystic fibrosis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Spina bifida
- Muscular dystrophies
- Hydrocephalus
- Parkinsonism
- Acute leukaemia
- Conditions arising from use of Thalidomide

If you qualify, you will get a long-term illness card.

You do not have to pay a prescription charge for drugs you are approved for under the Long Term Illness Scheme. Other drugs and medicines not related to the specified condition must be paid for in the normal way

If your doctor or occupational therapist prescribes a medical or surgical appliance, it will be supplied to you from your Local Health Office.

You can get an application form from your Local Health Office or download an application form on from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

Send your completed application form to:

Long Term Illness Scheme  
Client Registration Unit  
PO Box 12962  
Dublin 11  
D11 XKF3

### **Medical Card**

If you have a medical card issued by the Health Service Executive (HSE), you can receive certain health services free of charge. Normally, your dependent spouse or partner and your children are also covered for the same range of health services.

Anyone who is 'ordinarily resident' in Ireland can apply for a medical card. This means that you are living in Ireland and intend to live here for at least one year.

**To qualify for a medical card, your weekly income must be below a certain figure for your family size. Cash income, savings, investments and property (except for your own home) are taken into account in the means test.**

If you are aged 16–25 and dependent on a parent or guardian, you are eligible for a medical card if your parent or guardian has a medical card. If you have a child for whom you are getting Domiciliary Care Allowance, the child is eligible for a medical card, without a means test.

If you do not qualify for a medical card on income grounds, you may qualify for a GP visit card.

If you have a medical card, you are entitled to:

- Free GP (family doctor) services, including out-of-hours services
- Prescribed drugs and medicines — some prescription charges apply
- In-patient public hospital services, out-patient services and medical appliances
- Dental, optical and aural services
- Maternity and infant care services
- Some personal and social care services, for example, public health nursing, social work services and other community care services
- Short-term counselling for mild to moderate psychological difficulties, using the Counselling in Primary Care Service
- A maternity cash grant of €10.16 on the birth of each child (apply to your Local Health Office)

Medical card holders pay the Universal Social Charge on their income if it is over the exemption limit, but there is a reduced rate. Medical card holders may also be exempt from paying school transport charges and State exam fees in publicly-funded second-level schools. There may also be financial help with buying school books in certain schools.

If you have any questions before you send your application, you can phone Lo-call 1890 252 919, contact your Local Health Office, or email [clientregistration@hse.ie](mailto:clientregistration@hse.ie).



You can **apply online** for a medical card on [mymedicalcard.ie](http://mymedicalcard.ie). This is the quickest method of getting the card.

Alternatively, you can **download** a medical card application form (MC1 or MC1a) from [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie)

You can also get the application form and a list of participating GPs from your local health centre or Local Health Office for your area.

You return the form to

Client Registration Unit,  
4th Floor,  
HSE PCRS,  
Finglas,  
Dublin 11

Please include any documents required. If you are applying online you can upload photos, scans or photocopies of the original documents specified on the form.

### **GP Visit Card**

All **children under the age of 6** can get a GP visit card. In Budget 2023, it was announced that GP visit cards will be increased to include people on or below median income from April 2023. GP visit cards will be extended for children aged 6 and 7

If you get Carer's Benefit or Carer's Allowance, at full or half-rate, you are eligible for a GP visit card.

The GP visit card is available to everyone **aged over 70** without an income test.

If you are **aged under 70**, eligibility for the GP visit card is means tested in the same way as the medical card but the income threshold is higher

You can apply online for a GP visit card at [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie)

### **Medical Expenses**

If you are applying for tax relief you may be able to reclaim health and medical expenses subject to some restrictions using MED1 form. Claims for tax relief must be made within 4 years after the end of the tax year to which the claim relates. A guide to claiming health/medical expenses (IT6) is available online on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)

MED 1 applications can be made online on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) or in writing.

### **Free Preschool (ECCE)**

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme provides early childhood care and education for children of pre-school age. Children can start ECCE when they are 2 years and 8 months of age and continue until they transfer to primary school provided that they are not older than 5 years and 6 months at the end of the pre-school year.

The State pays participating playschools and day care services a set amount per child to offer the ECCE service. In return, participating centres and playschools provide a pre-school service free of charge to all children within the qualifying age range. If your child is over the eligibility age requirement due to special needs they may be able to get an exemption from the upper age limit for the ECCE Scheme. There are no exemptions to the lower age limit.

The service is for a set number of hours over a set period of weeks

ECCE is not affected by the introduction of the National Childcare Scheme (NCS). You may get financial support from the NCS towards the cost of childcare for the hours spent outside of pre-school. You can read more on [ncs.gov.ie](http://ncs.gov.ie).

The **Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)** was introduced in June 2016 for children starting ECCE in September 2016. AIM supports a child-centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support, moving from universal to targeted support, based on the needs of the child and the pre-school provider. The model offers tailored, practical supports based on need.

ECCE and AIM applications are made by the preschool provider.

## **Education**

Education for children with special needs may be provided in mainstream classes in mainstream schools, in special classes in mainstream schools or in special schools.

In mainstream schools, applications for resources, learning support and special needs assistance are made by the school principal to the department of education & science/special education support service. Department websites outline the roles of special needs assistance, resource teacher and learning support teacher.

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) employs Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENs) who are responsible for allocating additional teaching and other resources to support the special educational needs of children with disabilities at local level.

SENOs are the point of contact for parents and guardians and schools. Their main activities are:

- Providing support and advice to parents and guardians on the facilities services and resources available to assist your child
- Identifying possible school placements for your child
- Processing applications for resource teacher support for your child
- Assisting with applications for transport and Assistive Technology
- Liaising with the school, the HSE and other services
- Assisting in planning the transition of children to school, between schools and onwards from school.

You can find the contact details for SENOs on the NCSE website- [www.ncse.ie](http://www.ncse.ie)

### **School Transport**

The Department of Education provides school transport services for children with special educational needs. Bus Éireann (the State public transport operator) operates the school transport service on behalf of the Department. The child must be attending the nearest recognised mainstream school or special class/special school or a unit resourced to meet their special educational needs. The school transport service may not be available in all areas. Where the transport cannot be provided, you may be eligible for a **Special Transport Grant** to help with the cost of making private transport arrangements.

You should apply to the school principal who will contact the school's Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) about applying for special transport. If the SENO is satisfied that your child is enrolled in the nearest suitable school, and that school transport is required, a

recommendation will be sent to the School Transport Section of the Department of Education.

Applications for Special Transport Grant may also be forwarded to the School Transport Section through the SENO, prior to your child's enrolment in school. Applications may be made at the end of the school year by the parent or guardian of the child to the School Transport Section.

If your application for school transport has been refused, you are entitled to appeal the decision. You can appeal to the School Transport Appeals Board online on the School Transport Appeals website.

### **Home Tuition**

The purpose of this Home Tuition Scheme is to provide a compensatory educational service for children who, for a number of reasons such as chronic illness, are unable to attend school. The scheme also provides a compensatory educational service for children with special educational needs seeking an educational placement. Provision is also made for early educational intervention for children with autism.

Further information is available from:

Home Tuition Section,  
Department of Education and Science,  
Athlone,  
Co. West Meath  
Tel; (090) 6484187  
Email: special\_education@education.gov.ie

Application forms are available on  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d15f58-home-tuition/>

## **Summer provision**

Summer Provision provides educational supports during the summer to children with special needs and those at most risk of educational disadvantage.

The Summer Provision 2021 programmes includes:

- School-based summer programme for children with special educational needs in special classes, special schools and mainstream schools
- Home-based provision for children with complex needs (where a school-based programme is not available)
- Summer camps in DEIS schools focussing on numeracy and literacy

All primary schools and post-primary schools have the opportunity to provide a new 2 week summer programme for mainstream pupils with complex needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage. All special schools will also have the opportunity to provide a summer programme. The programme will take place in the child's school between July and August.

The home-based programme is only available if your child's school is not running a school-based programme or it does not have capacity to accommodate your child in the programme.

Home-based programme funds the employment of one to one care support or a tutor for 10 hours per week for 4 weeks. The tutor must be a registered teacher or a special needs assistant (SNA) and meet child protection criteria.

The school will contact parents of eligible children and provide a Grant Claim Form. If a school cannot provide a teacher or SNA, the parents must employ one.

You should contact your child's school about its school-based summer programme. If the school is not running a school-based programme or there are not enough places for eligible children the school can provide you with an application form for the home-based programme.

### **Working Family Payment**

Working Family Payment (WFP) is a weekly tax-free payment for employees with children. It supports people who are on low pay. WFP used to be called Family Income Supplement (FIS).

You must be an employee to get WFP. You cannot get it if you are self-employed only.

You must have at least one child who normally lives with you or who you support financially. Your child must be under 18 (or between 18 and 22 if they are in full-time day education).

To get WFP, your average weekly family income must be under a certain amount for your family size. The WFP payment you get is 60% of the difference between your average weekly family income and the WFP income limit for your family size. For more information, see 'Rate of Working Family Payment' below.

WFP is not taxed and is not taken into account in the means test for a medical card.

To apply fill in an application form for Working Family Payment. You can get a copy of this form in your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.

You can get help filling it in at an Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Branch Office or Citizens Information Centre.

To make sure that your application for WFP is processed as quickly as possible, you should send your most recent payslips with your application form.

### **Incapacitated Child Tax Credit**

This is available to the parent or guardian of a child:

- who is permanently incapacitated, either physically or mentally **and**
- where there is a reasonable expectation that the child will be unable to maintain themselves when over 18.

If you have more than one child who is permanently incapacitated, you may claim a credit for each child. If a child is maintained by more than one person, the tax credit is divided between them.

You can apply for ICT through MyAccount on the Revenue online service or if you are unable to access MyAccount, you can claim the credit by completing Form ICC1 in respect of the qualifying child. You must also provide a certified Form ICC2 from the child's medical practitioner. You can send both forms to your revenue office. This ICC1 & 2 forms are available on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) or from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)



## Home Carers Tax Credit

A Home Carer Tax Credit is a tax credit given to married couples or civil partners (who are jointly assessed for tax) where one spouse or civil partner works in the home caring for a dependent person.

The tax you are liable to pay is calculated as a percentage of your income. A tax credit is deducted from this to give the actual amount of tax that you have to pay. A tax credit has the effect of reducing your payable tax by the amount of the credit.

You can claim Home Carer Tax Credit by using PAYE Services, which is available through Revenue's MyAccount. You can access Revenue's MyAccount service online or on mobile and tablet devices using Revenue's RevApp. You can also apply by completing a Home Carer Tax Credit claim form available on the revenue website.

## Housing Adaptations Grant for People with a Disability

A Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and People with a Disability is available from local authorities if you need to make changes to a home to make it more suitable for a person with a physical, sensory or intellectual disability or mental health difficulty.

The grant can help you to make changes and adaptations to your home, for example, making it wheelchair-accessible, extending it to create more space, adding a ground-floor bathroom or toilet or a stair lift. In some cases, the provision of heating can be included, but only under certain conditions.

If you only require minor work, you can apply for the means-tested Mobility Aids Grant Scheme instead.

These 2 schemes (and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme) are administered by local authorities, under the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability) Regulations 2007, amended by new Regulations in 2014.

**Your application will be prioritised based on medical need. There are 3 priority levels:**

- **Priority 1:** A person who is terminally ill or fully or mainly dependent on their family or carer; or where alterations or adaptations would facilitate their discharge from hospital or alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future
- **Priority 2:** A person who is mobile but who needs assistance in accessing washing, toilet facilities, bedroom etc.; or where without the alterations or adaptations their ability to function independently would be hindered
- **Priority 3:** A person who is independent but who requires special facilities to improve their quality of life, for example, a separate bedroom or living space

An **occupational therapist's (OT) assessment** may be required. The local authority can arrange for this, or you can employ an OT yourself and recoup up to €200 of the cost from the local authority as part of the grant, subject to the maximum grant limit. If you are applying for the grant to adapt your home for a child with a disability, and the child has had an assessment of need under Part 2 of the Disability Act 2005, the local authority should refer to the OT recommendations contained in this assessment report.

The grant is available to households whose gross annual household income does not exceed €60,000. Your total household income is assessed to find out if you qualify for the grant and the amount payable.

The following is not taken into account when calculating your household income:

- €5,000 for each member of the household aged up to 18 years
- €5,000 for each member of the household aged between 18 and 23 years and in full-time education or on a SOLAS apprenticeship
- €5,000 where the person to whom the grant application relates is being cared for by a relative on a full-time basis
- Child Benefit
- Working Family Payment
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Carer's Support Grant
- Carer's Benefit and Carer's Allowance (if the carer's payment is made in respect of the person to whom the grant application relates)

Please note **the grant will not be paid if you start work before you get grant approval**. However, it is expected that the work will start within 6 months of your grant approval. If this does not happen, the local authority may allow a time extension.

Application forms for housing adaptations are available from Meath County Council website [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie). The form contains detailed information on the scheme's conditions and a checklist of documents that you must include.

If you are unhappy with the local authority's decision in your case, you can appeal the decision. The appeal must be in writing and must be made within 3 weeks of the decision. You must state the reasons and grounds for your appeal.

### **Mobility Aids Grant Scheme**

This scheme provides grants for work designed to address mobility problems in the home. It is not permissible to apply for both the

mobility aids grant and the housing adaptations grant. The maximum grant under this scheme is €6000, it is means tested and only households with an income of less than €30,000 per year can apply. Application forms from Meath County Council (046) 9097000 or [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

### **Local Property Tax Exemptions**

See guidelines on local property tax exemption on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) or [https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money\\_and\\_tax/tax/housing\\_tax\\_exemptions\\_and\\_reliefs/local\\_property\\_tax\\_exemptions.html](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money_and_tax/tax/housing_tax_exemptions_and_reliefs/local_property_tax_exemptions.html)

### **Home Support**

Home Support is funded through the HSE disability services. In order to access this service the Social Worker or Liaison Nurse on your child's disability team will need to complete an assessment which is submitted to the Home Support Committee for approval. Following approval by the committee, the HSE Home Support Manager will seek a Home Support provider to fill the hours approved.

Please note an assessment does not mean that you will be allocated home support hours.

If you have private Health Insurance check with your insurer if you have any cover for home nursing support.

You can also access home support privately and can claim between 20-40% of the cost back through your tax.

## **Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme**

The Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme provides a range of tax reliefs linked to the purchase and use of specially constructed or adapted vehicles by drivers and passengers with a disability.

Under the scheme, you can claim:

- Remission or repayment of vehicle registration tax (VRT)
- Repayment of value-added tax (VAT) on the purchase of a vehicle
- Repayment of VAT on the cost of adapting a vehicle

If you qualify for the scheme, you may get some additional exemptions and benefits including:

- An exemption from motor tax on the vehicle,
- An exemption from toll road fees,
- The fuel grant, see 'Rates' below.

To qualify for tax relief under the scheme, the person with a disability must have a valid Primary Medical Certificate. A Primary Medical Certificate confirms you are severely and permanently disabled

An application needs to be made to the HSE, Local Health Office, Co. Clinic, Navan, Co. Meath (046 9021595) to be assessed for a primary medical certificate. Once this is granted you can apply for an exemption from VRT on MyAccount at [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie). If you do not have online access you can apply by submitting a Form DD1 along with your primary medical certificate to:

Central Repayments Office  
Office of Revenue Commissioner  
M:TEK 11 Building  
Armagh Road  
Monaghan Tel: (01) 738 3671

### **Disabled Parking Permits Scheme**

Applies to disabled persons not the adapted car. Vehicles displaying the permits are entitled to park in public car parking areas in parking bays for disabled persons and are exempt from disk parking fees. These are generally not generally issued to anyone under 3 years of age and are obtained by writing to:

Parking Section  
National Mobility Centre  
The Irish Wheelchair Association  
Ballinagappa Road  
Clane  
Co. Kildare  
Email: [maats@iaw.ie](mailto:maats@iaw.ie)  
Tel: (045) 893094/893095

Briefly outlining the reasons for your application and they may then send out an application form for completion. Application costs €35 and is valid for 2 years. You can also apply in writing to the Disabled Drivers Association (094) 936 4054.

### **Toll Bridges**

M50 exemption from toll charges for vehicles specially adapted for a disabled driver or a disabled passenger. The car needs to be registered with the Vehicle Registration Unit as a specially adapted vehicle. For all other toll bridges contact operator for details of exemptions, see [www.iwa.ie](http://www.iwa.ie) for details.

## **Useful Contacts**

Meath County Council – 046 9097000

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda – 041 9837601

Temple Street Children’s Hospital – 01 8784200

Our Lady’s Hospital Crumlin – 01 4096100

Mullingar Hospital – 044 9340221

Tusla Meath – 046 9098560

Citizens Information – 0818 07 6150

Parentline – 1890927277

MABS – 08180 72000

Threshold – 1800 454454

St. Vincent De Paul – 1800 677777 / 041 9873331

Meath Domestic Violence Service 046 9022393

Samaritans – 116 123

Meath County Child Care Committee – 046 9073010

## **Meath Primary Care and Health Centres**

### **County Clinic Navan – 046 9021595**

Ashbourne Primary Care Centre, Unit 12 Killegland Walk, Declan Street,

Ashbourne Tel: 01 6914600

Athboy Health Centre, 1/2 The Courtyard, Kildalkey Road, Athboy.

Tel: 046 9430166

Ballivor Health Centre, Community Hall, Mullingar Road, Ballivor.

Tel: 046 9251560

Drumconrath Health Centre, Please contact Kingscourt Primary Care Centre

Tel: 042 9679800

Dunboyne Health Centre, Dunboyne Tel: 01 8251622  
Duleek Health Centre, Navan Road, Duleek. Tel: 041 9823338  
Dunshaughlin Health Centre, Main Street, Dunshaughlin. Tel: 01 8024100  
Enfield Health Centre, Enfield. Tel: 046 9251580  
Johnstown Health Centre, Johnstown, Navan Tel: 046 9076230  
Kells Primary Care Centre, Navan Road, Kells. Tel: 046 9251400  
Laytown Health Centre, Alverno Heights, Laytown. Tel: 041 9827012  
Nobber Health Centre, Muff, Nobber. Tel: 046 9052238  
Oldcastle Health Centre, Oldcastle Tel: 049 8541334  
Slane Health Centre, Chapel Street, Slane. Tel: 041 9824380  
Summerhill Primary Care Centre, New Road, Summerhill. Tel: 046 9544201  
Trim Primary Care Centre, Knightsbridge Village, Longwood Road, Trim  
Tel: 046 9420800  
Wilkinstown Health Centre, Balsaw, Wilkinstown. Tel: 046 9054788

### **Useful Websites**

#### Disability Services Information and Support

National disability authority [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)

Enable Ireland [www.enableireland.ie](http://www.enableireland.ie)

Chime national charity for deafness and hearing loss [www.chime.ie](http://www.chime.ie)

Down syndrome Ireland [www.downsyndrome.ie](http://www.downsyndrome.ie)

ADHD Information [www.adhdandyou.com](http://www.adhdandyou.com)

Irish assistance for spina bifida & hydrocephalus [www.sbhi.ie](http://www.sbhi.ie)

Epiipse Ireland [www.epilipsey.ie](http://www.epilipsey.ie)

Irish autism action [www.autismireland.ie](http://www.autismireland.ie)

Irish Neonatal Health Alliance [www.inha.ie](http://www.inha.ie)



Irish wheelchair association [www.iwa.ie](http://www.iwa.ie)  
Cerebral Palsy Information [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)  
Jack and Jill foundation [www.jackandjill.ie](http://www.jackandjill.ie)  
Unique – the rare chromosomal support group [www.rarechromo.org](http://www.rarechromo.org)  
As I Am Autism Charity [www.asiam.ie](http://www.asiam.ie)  
Autism Northern Ireland [www.autismni.org](http://www.autismni.org)  
Autism Speaks [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)  
Middletown Centre for Autism [www.middletownautism.com](http://www.middletownautism.com)  
National autistic society [www.autism.org](http://www.autism.org)  
Shine Centre for Autism <https://shineireland.com/>  
South Meath Autism Support Hub (SMASH) -  
<https://m.facebook.com/southmeathautismsupporthub/>  
Autism Mommies - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/autismmommies/>  
Little Puddins – [www.littlepuddins.ie](http://www.littlepuddins.ie)

#### General Parenting and Family Supports

Rollercoaster – [www.rollercoaster.ie](http://www.rollercoaster.ie)  
Meath County Childcare Committee [www.mccc.ie](http://www.mccc.ie)  
Family Support Meath [www.familysupportmeath.ie](http://www.familysupportmeath.ie)  
East Coast Family Resource Centre  
<https://www.crannsupportgroup.ie/eastcoastfamilyresourcecentre/>  
Springboard Family Support <http://meathspringboardfamilysupportservices.ie/>  
Family mediation service [www.legalaidboard.ie](http://www.legalaidboard.ie)  
Family resources centers <https://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/family-resource-centres/find-family-resource-centre/#Meath>  
Parentline [www.parentline.ie](http://www.parentline.ie)

### Government Departments and Public Services websites

Government Departments Website- [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)

Tusla Child and Family Agency – [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

Tusla Education Welfare Service <https://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/ews/>

HSE [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

National centre for technology in education [www.ncte.ie](http://www.ncte.ie)

National council for special education [www.ncse.ie](http://www.ncse.ie)

Revenue commissioner [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)

Meath County Council [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)

### General Support

Citizens Information [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

Money advice and Budgeting Service <https://mabs.ie/>

Threshold [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)

Saint Vincent de Paul [www.svp.ie](http://www.svp.ie)

National Advocacy Service [www.advocacy.ie](http://www.advocacy.ie)

Immigrant council of Ireland [www.immigrantcouncil.ie](http://www.immigrantcouncil.ie)

Meath Womens Refuge and Support Services [www.dvservicesmeath.ie](http://www.dvservicesmeath.ie)

Samaritans [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

## **Contact Us**

Children's Disability Network Team 4: Dunshaughlin/East Meath

Enable Ireland, Unit 14, Aerbridge House,, Dunshaughlin Business Park,  
Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.

Phone: 01 8240696

**The information contained in this leaflet is intended as a guide only. Payment rates on some allowances are on graduated basis and qualifying conditions for each benefit and allowance needs to be reviewed on an individual basis with the agency responsible.**

**Information on how to apply for all of the benefits listed below as well as application forms are available on [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)**

**Citizens Information are also available to support in filling out forms if you are having any difficulties and can advise you as to which benefits you are eligible to apply for.**



**Children's  
Disability  
Network  
Team**