HEALTH – MEDICAL

• You may be eligible for a medical card or GP visit card, subject to certain criteria.

• Under the Drugs Payment Scheme, you and your family only have to pay a maximum of €80/month for approved prescribed drugs and medicines, and certain appliances.

• A person that has a condition covered by the Long-Term Illness Scheme is entitled to free medicines and appliances for the treatment of that condition.

• You are no longer required to pay public in-patient and day services fees.

• You do not need to pay a charge to attend the emergency department if you are referred by your GP, you have a medical card, or if you have a certain illness or disability.

• You can apply for financial support through the HSE to help pay for the cost of care in a nursing home through the Fair Deal Scheme.

• The shingles vaccine for people over 65 will be available by the HSE from 2027.

TAX CREDITS AND RELIEFS

• Health expenses can be claimed through the Medical Expenses Tax Relief.

• These can be your own health expenses, those of a family member or any individual's, as long as you paid for them.

• VAT refunds are available on certain aids and appliances.

• If you or your spouse or civil partner are aged over 65, you can get an additional tax credit called the Age Tax Credit.

• The Dependent Relative Tax Credit is a tax credit that parents/guardians and people caring for dependent relatives may claim.

• Tax relief is available on the cost of employing a carer for either yourself or for another family member.

• Tax relief is available for those who have an assistance dog.

• The Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme provides a range of tax reliefs for disabled drivers and disabled passengers.

• The Home Carer Tax Credit is available for married couples and those in a civil partnership if they care for a dependent person(s).

• If you have certain visual impairments you may be entitled to the Blind Person's Tax Credit.

HEALTH – COMMUNITY CARE

• You can get basic nursing care, advice and assistance from a public health nurse in your home or in a community setting. They can refer you to other community care services such as physiotherapy, chiropody and respite care.

• The HSE provides the Home Support Service to help older people to continue living in their own homes for as long as possible. The service is generally available for those aged 65+ and there is no charge for the service. It is not means tested and you do not need a medical card to apply.

• You may be eligible for chiropody, podiatry and foot care services if you have a medical card and are aged 66+. Your local GP, public health nurse or Local Health Office can provide you with more information on this in your local area.

• You may also be eligible for free audiology and dental services if you have a medical card.

TRANSPORT

• If you are over the age of 66 or getting a carers' or certain other social welfare payments, you can get a Free Travel Pass, entitling you to free travel at any time on bus, road, rail and on certain private services which have opted into the scheme.

• You can also use your Free Travel Pass on any of the 34 schemes under the Rural Transport Initiative. People who are entitled to free travel are also entitled to have their spouse/partner travel free with them or may be entitled to a Companion Pass on medical grounds.

• The Free Travel Scheme also covers public transport services in Northern Ireland for people over 66 years of age who have a Senior SmartPass Card.

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Fianna Fáil
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YOUR GUIDE TO

ENTITLEMENTS & SUPPORTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE



KEEP IN TOUCH

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GRANTS AND SUPPORTS

Apply via. your local council

- The Housing Adaptation Grant is available for those with a physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual disability, maximum grant of €40,000.
- The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme is also available for minor adaptations of a house, such as bathrooms, access ramps, stair lifts etc. Maximum grant is €6,000.
- The Housing Aid for Older People Grant is available for essential repairs to improve the condition of an older person's home so they can continue to live there. Maximum grant of €10,700.
- Some local authorities provide a waiver to low-income households on waste and water charges made by private operators and by local authorities. Contact your local authority to find out more.
- Fuel Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months (September-April). This is €38 per week rising to €43 per week from Jan 2027.

HOUSING PROVISION

- Rent Supplement is a means-tested payment for certain people living in private rented accommodation who cannot provide for the cost of their accommodation from their own resources.
- The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is available for people who have a long-term housing need and is administered by the local authority. When you are a HAP tenant you pay a weekly HAP rent contribution to the local authority, based on your income and ability to pay.
- If you are getting Rent Supplement for more than 18 months and you are in need of long-term housing, you may be eligible for the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).
- Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) are independent, not-for-profit organisations that provide affordable rented housing for people who cannot afford to pay private sector rents or buy their own homes. Some AHBs provide housing specifically for particular groups of people, such as older people.

INCOME SUPPORTS

- The State Pension (Contributory) is payable from the age of 66. You are allowed to have income from any other source while you receive this pension, but both the income and the pension are taxable. This is €299.30 per week (aged 66-79) and €309.30 (aged 80 and over) and will increase by €10 a week from January 2027.
- The Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension is available if you are widowed or a surviving civil partner, have not remarried or entered into a new civil partnership, and are not cohabiting.

INCOME SUPPORTS CONT.

- The State Pension (Non-Contributory) is a payment for people aged 66+ who do not qualify for a State Pension (Contributory).
- You may qualify for a Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension if you do not meet the above criteria. At age 66 you will transfer to the State Pension (Non-Contributory).
- The Living Alone allowance is a supplementary payment for people on social welfare pensions who are living alone. It is €22 per week rising to €25 per week in 2027.
- If you are getting a social welfare pension you will automatically receive an increase in your pension when you reach 80 years of age.
- You may receive an Increase for Living on a Specified Island to compensate for the additional costs of living here compared to on the mainland.

Contact your local social welfare office or visit mywelfare.ie

- Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit and the Carer's Support Grant are the main payments for those providing full-time care.
- Carers may also qualify for an annual Carer's Support Grant of €2,000
- If you receive other social welfare payments, you may be able to keep your main social welfare payment and get half-rate Carer's Allowance in addition.
- If you are aged 70+ you will automatically qualify for the Household Benefits Package which includes the electricity or gas allowance worth €35 per week and a free TV licence worth €160. The scheme may also be available to people aged 66 and over who get certain social welfare payments or whose income is below certain limits.
- The Fuel Allowance is a means-tested payment to help people who cannot afford their heating costs. It is €38 per week rising to €43 per week from January 2027 paid from Sept to April. The means test limit for single people will increase to €641 per week for people over 66 from Jan. 2027.
- The Additional Needs Payment is a payment to help you with an expense that you cannot pay from your weekly income such as funeral costs or recurring travel costs to hospital.
- Payment after Death Payment: Spouses, civil partners and cohabitants can continue to receive primary social welfare payments for 6 weeks after the death of their partner. This will rise to 10 weeks in 2027.
- The Rent-a-Room is a tax free allowance for renting out a spare room in your home of €14,000 rising to €16,000 in 2027.



ENERGY UPGRADE GRANTS

There are grants available to improve the energy efficiency of your property. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administer these grants, which fall under 3 general schemes:

1. Individual Home Energy Upgrade grants available include:

Measure	Apt.	Mid-Ter.	S.D/End.	Detached
Attic	€1,100	€1,400	€1,500	€2,000
Attic (FTB/W)	€1,400	€1,800	€1,900	€2,500
Cavity Wall	€700	€850	€1,300	€1,800
Solar PV (max)	€1,800	€1,800	€1,800	€1,800
Dry Lining	€1,500	€2,000	€3,500	€4,500
External Walls	€3,000	€3,500	€6,000	€8,000
Doors (2 max)	2 x €800	2 x €800	2 x €800	2 x €800
Windows	€1,500	€1,800	€3,000	€4,000
Heat Pump	€9,500	€12,500	€12,500	€12,500

* An additional €2,000 if scrapping a boiler.

2. The Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme is for people on low incomes that provides free home energy upgrades. This includes Solar PV and battery. For homes build pre 2006.

3. The National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme is for homeowners, landlords and approved housing bodies who want to bring their homes up to a BER rating of B2 or above using a private company to manage the project via the One Stop Shop Service of SEAI.

- **Boiler Scrappage scheme** is worth €2,000.
- **Social Protection support of up to 9,000 Solar PV + battery** for eligible homeowners in receipt of certain Department of Social Protection payments
- RAS and HAP tenants can avail of **grants of up to €9,000 to provide 100% median cost grants** for solar PV (up to 4kWp) and battery (5kWh) systems
- **Grants for medically vulnerable** for solar PV and battery up to 4kWp SPV systems with 5kWh battery storage.

Visit SEAI.ie for more information or call 01 8082100