

# State SUPPORTS

For People with Cystic Fibrosis



**This booklet seeks to provide a comprehensive information resource for people with Cystic Fibrosis. It outlines social welfare and health service supports as well as avenues for tax relief.**

**We hope that this booklet will prove to be a useful resource for people with CF, parents of people with CF and anyone working in a support role in this area.**



This information booklet was produced by Cystic Fibrosis Ireland in partnership with the Dublin 2,4,6 Citizen's Information Service. We have sought to ensure the information in this booklet is accurate at the time of publication and will not be held liable for inaccuracies or omissions.

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# STATE SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

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## SOCIAL WELFARE SUPPORTS

### Below are the main social welfare payments that provide financial support to people with Cystic Fibrosis

#### DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

The Disability Allowance (DA) is a weekly allowance paid to people with a disability. It is the general progression for people with CF to apply for this allowance once they turn 16 and the Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) ceases.

#### Rules

You must be aged between 16 and 66, satisfy both a means test and a habitual residence test, and have a specified disability which results in you being substantially restricted in undertaking suitable employment that would otherwise be suitable for a person of your age, experience and qualifications.

Although your parents' means are not considered, **that of your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant are taken into account.** These could include savings, earnings from work and income from any pensions. This has implications if you are considering moving in with a partner or are getting married.

#### Medical assessment

Your doctor must complete a medical report on your condition, which is part of the application form. This report is reviewed by one of the Department's Medical Assessors who will be appointed

by the Department of Social Protection to determine eligibility for this allowance. We would also advise you to get a letter of support from your CF Consultant to outline your condition and include it with the application.

#### Rehabilitative work

You can do 'rehabilitative work' and earn up to €120 per week (after deduction of PRSI, any pension contributions and union dues) without your DA being affected. If you earn more than €120 per week, 50% of your earnings between €120 and €350 will not be taken into account in the DA means test. Any earnings over €350 are fully assessed in the means test.

**Note:** You must get permission from the Department of Social Protection before you start work; a letter may be required from the GP/Consultant confirming the work is 'rehabilitative'.



People on Disability Allowance may also be eligible for JobBridge – the National Internship Scheme which provides work experience placements for interns for a 6 or 9 month period.

### Rate

The weekly maximum rate of the Disability Allowance is €188 (2014 rate).

### Other Benefits

If you are awarded the Disability Allowance, you will get a Free Travel Pass (p6), which allows you to travel for free on all State public transport (bus, rail and Dublin's LUAS service). Your spouse, civil partner or co-habitant can also travel for free with you. You may also qualify for the Household Benefits Package (see p5).

### How to apply

You will not be automatically transferred to the DA once you turn 16 and the DCA ceases, but you should receive notification a few months before payment stops to advise you of this.

For an application form contact your Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre, or log on to [welfare.ie](http://welfare.ie) or [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie).

### For more information:

Disability Allowance Section  
Department of Social Protection  
College Road, Sligo  
**t:** 043 334 0000 **Locall:** 1890 92 77 70  
**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

### PUBLIC SERVICES CARD

A new Public Services Card is being introduced which is replacing the Social Services Card used to collect social welfare payments and the Free Travel Pass. First introduced in 2012, the Public Services Card is currently being rolled out.

### How to apply

Public Services Card is issued by invitation only. You cannot request one. Invitation will be either face-to-face or by postal contact.

### For further information:

If you have general questions about the card or the registration process you can use the Department of Social Protection's online query form.

If you have questions about the 'face-to-face' registration process contact:  
Client Identity Services  
Department of Social Protection  
Shannon Lodge  
Carrick-On-Shannon  
Co. Leitrim

**Locall:** 1890 927 999

If you have questions about the 'postal' registration process contact:  
Department of Social Protection  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Main Street  
Ballybay,  
Co. Monaghan

## SECONDARY BENEFITS

You may be entitled to the following additional benefits depending on your personal circumstances

### HOUSEHOLD BENEFITS PACKAGE

There are 2 allowances in the Household Benefits Package:

#### Allowance 1

- The Electricity Allowance *or*
- Natural Gas Allowance *or*
- Cash Electricity Allowance *or*
- Cash Gas Allowance

#### Allowance 2

- The Free Television Licence

**The Telephone Allowance was discontinued from 1 January 2014.**

From January 2015 the Household Benefits Package will include a new **Water Support payment** to assist with water costs. This will be worth €100 each year in four instalments of €25. You will



qualify for this payment if you qualify for the Household Benefits Package.

You may qualify for the Household Benefits Package if you are in receipt of the Disability Allowance, or if there is a person caring for you who is in receipt of the Carer's Allowance.

Only one person in a household can qualify for the package at any time.

### Household Benefit Package 2014 Rates

Electricity Allowance	€35 monthly
Cash Electricity Allowance	€35 monthly
Natural Gas Allowance	€35 monthly
Cash Gas Allowance	€35 monthly
Television Licence	Once you qualify for the Household Benefits Package, you become eligible for a Free Television Licence from the next renewal date of your television licence.

### How to apply

The application form (HB1) for the household benefits package is available at post offices, from your local social welfare office or Citizens Information Centre. Alternatively go online to [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) where you can download an application form.

### For more information:

Household Benefits Section  
Social Welfare Services  
College Road  
Sligo

**t:** 071 915 7100

**Local:** 1890 500 000



### How to apply

If you are under age 66, you will get a Free Travel Pass automatically when you are awarded an Invalidity Pension, Disability Allowance or Carer's Allowance. In all other circumstances, you must apply for free travel by completing a Free Travel application form (FT1), which is available at your local post office or citizen's information centre.

### For more information:

Free Travel Section (Freepost)  
Social Welfare Services  
College Road  
Sligo  
Ireland

**t:** 071 915 7100

**Local:** 1890 500 000

**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

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### FREE TRAVEL

If you are in receipt of the Disability Allowance, Carer's Allowance or an Invalidity Pension, you will get a Free travel pass which you can use on all State public transport (bus, rail and Dublin's LUAS service).

If you have a Free Travel Pass and you are married, in a civil partnership or cohabiting, you are entitled to a Free Travel Pass which allows your partner to accompany you free of charge when travelling.



## SUPPLEMENTARY WELFARE ALLOWANCE

### Other financial supplements may be available for certain expenses you may not be able to meet

#### RENT SUPPLEMENT

Rent Supplement is paid to people living in private rented accommodation who cannot provide for the cost of their accommodation from their own resources. In general, you will qualify for a Rent Supplement if your only income is a social welfare payment and you satisfy the other conditions (see below).

Rent Supplement will only be provided if the accommodation is suitable for your needs and the rent is below the maximum rent limit set for your county.

You may be eligible for Rent Supplement if you have:

1. Been living for 6 months (183 days) out of the last 12 months in private rented accommodation. You must be able to show that you could afford the rent at the beginning of your tenancy and that you could have continued to pay rent but are unable to do so because of a change in your circumstances which occurred after you started renting.
2. Been assessed by a local authority as being eligible for and in need of social housing in the last 12 months. You must apply to your local authority to have your housing need assessed – this must be in the area that

you intend to live and claim Rent Supplement. Only when you are assessed as eligible for and in need of housing can you apply for Rent Supplement. Rent Supplement is not payable while the local authority is carrying out a housing needs assessment.

You must also pass a habitual residence test and a means test in order to qualify for Rent Supplement.

**Note:** You cannot get Rent Supplement to help you pay rent to your parents if you are living in the family home.

You won't qualify for Rent Supplement if you are in full-time employment (30 hours or more a week) or are in full-time education (some exceptions apply). Also, if you have refused a second offer of local authority accommodation in a 12-month period, you will not be eligible for Rent Supplement for a period of 12 months.

#### Rate

Calculating Rent Supplement is very complex. The Department of Social Protection's representative will calculate your entitlement to Rent Supplement.

You must pay at least €30 a week towards your rent if you are single and €40 if you are in a couple.

Rent Supplement is paid to you weekly or monthly by cheque, Electronic Fund Transfer or post draft, usually in arrears.

**How to apply**

Contact your local Citizen's Information Centre for support in completing the application or get in touch with the Department of Social Protection's representative (formerly known as the Community Welfare Officer) at your local health centre.

In some areas new Rent Supplement applications are processed by centralised Rent Unit; [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Central-Rents-Units.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Central-Rents-Units.aspx). If you live in one of the areas listed at this link you can get a rent pack containing all the relevant information you need.

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**EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS PAYMENT**

An Exceptional Needs Payment is a single payment to help meet essential, once-off, exceptional expenditure, which a person could not reasonably be expected to meet out of their weekly income. For example, the payments can be for special clothing

for a person who has a serious illness, bedding or cooking utensils for someone setting up a home for the first time, visiting relatives in hospital or prison, or funeral costs. You can also apply for financial help for clothing for children.

**Note: Exceptional Needs Payments are no longer paid for religious ceremonies, mainly communions and confirmations.**

**Rate**

The amount of payment you get will depend on a means test and the type of assistance you need.

**How to apply**

You will need Personal Public Service (PPS) numbers for yourself, your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant and your children and evidence of any income or social welfare assistance you are getting.

**Where to apply**

Contact the Department of Social Protection's representative (formerly known as the Community Welfare Officer) at your local health centre.

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## SUPPORT FOR CARERS

### Read below for more information on the different payments and benefits for carers of people with CF

#### CARER'S ALLOWANCE

The Carer's Allowance is a means-tested weekly payment for carers on low incomes who live with and look after certain people who need full-time care and attention.

The person caring for you must not be engaged in employment, self-employment, training or education courses outside the home for more than 15 hours a week (alternative care arrangements would have to be made at such a time). Carer's Allowance is not taken into account in the assessment for a medical card.

If you qualify for the Carer's Allowance, you also qualify for free household benefits (such as free electricity/natural gas/bottled gas refill allowance, free television Licence) and a Free Travel Pass. If you get the Carer's Allowance, you would also be paid the Respite Care Grant automatically in June each year (see later).

#### Rate

Caring for 1 person aged under 66 the weekly maximum rate is €204 in 2014 / Caring for 2 persons aged under 66 the weekly maximum rate is €306 in 2014. You may claim a full-rate increase (€29.80)

in your payment for a child dependant if you are a carer and are single, widowed, separated or a civil partner who is not living with the other civil partner. You may claim a half-rate increase (€14.90) in your payment for a child dependant if you are a carer and are living with your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant.



#### How to apply

Contact your Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre. Alternatively download an application form (CR1 or CR2 if you are caring for more than one person) from [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) or [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).

#### For more information:

Department of Social Protection  
Carer's Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford  
**t:** 043 334 0000  
**Locall:** 1890 92 77 70

**If you wish to take time off work to care for your child you can apply for the following:**

### **CARER'S BENEFIT**

If you are in insurable employment and you wish to leave the workforce for up to two years to care for your child with CF (see Carer's Leave below), you may qualify for Carer's Benefit. This payment is based on your PRSI contributions.

You can claim Carer's Benefit for a single continuous period or in any number of separate blocks up to a total of 104 weeks (two years) for each person being cared for. You may subsequently qualify for the Carer's Allowance after this period if still providing full-time care for your child.

### **How to apply**

Contact your Social Welfare Local Office or Citizens Information Centre. Alternatively download an application form (CARB1) from [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie) or [welfare.ie](http://welfare.ie).



### **Rate**

For 2014, the maximum weekly rate is €205 if caring for one person and €307.50 if caring for two people. You may also get an increase for each qualified child €29.80 (full rate) / €14.90 (half rate), depending on your weekly income.

### **For more information:**

Department of Social Protection  
Carer's Benefit Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford

**t:** 043 334 0000

**Local:** 1890 92 77 70

**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

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### **CARER'S LEAVE**

If your child needs full-time care, you may be able to take carer's leave (temporary unpaid leave from employment) while preserving your employment rights. In order to qualify, you must have been in continuous employment for at least a year.

The minimum period for which you can take carer's leave is 13 weeks and the maximum period is 104 weeks (two years). This leave is unpaid but you may be able to qualify for Carer's Benefit or Allowance.

### **For more information:**

Carer's Benefit/Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services Office



Ballinalee Road, Co. Longford

**Locall:** 1890 927 770

**t:** 043 334 0000

### **Workplace Relations Customer Services**

(formerly Information Services of the National Employment Rights Authority)

Department of Jobs, Enterprise  
and Innovation

O'Brien Road, Carlow

**t:** 059 917 8990

**Locall:** 1890 80 80 90

**w:** [www.workplacelrelations.ie](http://www.workplacelrelations.ie)

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### **RESPITE CARE GRANT**

In June of each year, the Department of Social Protection automatically issues a Respite Care Grant to carers getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or the Domiciliary Care Allowance. Carers can use the grant in whatever way they wish. You can use the grant to pay for respite care if you wish, but you do not have to use it for this purpose.

### **Rate**

The Respite Care Grant rate is €1,375 in 2014. It is usually paid in June for each person you are caring for. It is not taxable..

### **How to apply**

The Respite Care Grant is issued automatically if you are getting the Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or the Domiciliary Care Allowance. If you are not getting one of these payments you must apply for the grant (application forms available online or from your Social Welfare Local Office).

**Note:** You do not qualify if you are working more than 15 hours per week outside the home, if you are getting an unemployment payment or if you are signing on for unemployment credits.

## HEALTH SERVICE SUPPORTS

There are a number of schemes to help families with medical costs including the Long-Term Illness Card, the Medical Card and the GP Visit Card

### LONG TERM ILLNESS SCHEME

Cystic Fibrosis is a long term illness (LTI) that is recognised under this scheme. The LTI scheme does not depend on your income or other circumstances and is separate from the medical card scheme and the GP visit card scheme. PWCF are **automatically allowed** a LTI book, however, you must still apply for one. Once approved, your LTI book will list the drugs and medicines for the treatment of your condition, which will be provided to you for free through your community pharmacist. There are no prescription charges associated with the dispensing of medications through this scheme.

To view the full list of CF medications available through the LTI scheme (as of June 2014) log on to: [www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/lti/l.pdf](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/lti/l.pdf) or contact Cystic Fibrosis Ireland to check. You should not be charged by your pharmacist for anything on this list.

### How to apply

You can get an application form from your Family Doctor (GP) or your Local Health Office. Send the completed application form directly to your Local Health Office. Once your application is processed you will be supplied with a Long-Term Illness book.

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### MEDICAL CARD SCHEME

People with CF are not automatically entitled to the medical card, as it depends on family income.

Medical Cards allow people to access GP services, community health services, limited dental services, hospital care and a range of other benefits free of charge. Although primarily issued on financial grounds, the medical card can also be provided on discretionary basis in exceptional circumstances.



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.

Your eligibility for the medical card is reviewed regularly.

### How to apply

Applying online is the fastest route: [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie). You can also track the status of your application through this route.

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.

### For more information:

Locall 1890 252 919 or contact your Local Health Office if you have any questions about medical cards and eligibility. You can also contact the HSE Infoline on 1850 24 1850.

HSE Central Medical Card Office  
Client Registration Unit  
P.O Box 11745  
Finglas, Dublin 11

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### Can I apply for a LTI card if I already have the medical card?

Yes, thanks to a recent change in Department of Health policy in late 2013, if you are a person with CF who holds a medical card, you are now also entitled to apply for and be granted a long-term illness card.



### The LTI vs the Medical Card

#### *Are there any advantages of the LTI scheme over the medical card?*

The big advantage of the LTI scheme is that you don't have to pay prescription charges. A €2.50 prescription charge is applied for each item that is dispensed by your pharmacist through the medical card – this expense could rise to €25 per month or €300 per year for people using the medical card. All items listed in your LTI book are dispensed free of charge through the LTI scheme.

Secondly, as your LTI book lists all the items for the treatment of your CF, you don't have to go to your local GP for ongoing prescriptions – you can just walk into the pharmacy and order your medication. If you need to get new items added to your LTI book, you just need to go to the Local Health Office with the prescription from the CF Consultant/ GP and they can add it to your LTI book. Note that all new drugs and medicines must be related to your CF in order for them to be added to the LTI book.

#### *Are there any advantages of the medical card over the LTI scheme?*

PWCF who have an LTI book and not a medical card could be liable for inpatient charges of €75 per day

up to a maximum of €750 in any 12 consecutive months. This charge is generally relinquished for PWCF as persons receiving treatment for prescribed infectious diseases get the charge waived by the hospital. If you hold a medical card you do not have to pay the inpatient charges.

Very few PWCF under 16 have medical cards as most PWCF only get the medical card as a result of being on Disability Allowance or a Back to Work Scheme.

The following health services are available to people in receipt of a medical card:

- Free GP (family doctor) services
- Prescribed drugs and medicines (prescription charges apply)
- Inpatient public hospital services, outpatient 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
- A maternity cash grant of €10.16 on the birth of each child

Medical card holders pay the Universal Social Charge on their income (except for social welfare and HSE payments), but at a maximum rate of 4%. The only exemption is for people earning less than €10,036 per annum.

If you are currently accessing medications related to CF through your medical card, you can now get these through the LTI card and still retain the use of your medical card for other purposes. This would result in you avoiding prescription charges and could save a potential €25 per family per month.

### GP VISIT CARDS

If you do not qualify for a medical card, your application will also be automatically considered for the GP Visit Card.

GP Visit Cards allow you to visit your family doctor for free. Eligibility for GP Visit Cards is means tested, but the income guidelines for the GP Visit Card are 50% higher than those for the medical card.

### How to apply

To apply for a GP Visit Card, apply in the same way as for a medical card. While your GP Visit Card application is being processed, the HSE will also assess your entitlement for a full medical card.



## APPEALS

If you were refused any of these supports you are entitled to appeal the decision and request a review of your application – read below for further information

If you have been refused any of the above entitlements/allowances, and are not satisfied with the decision, you can appeal the decision and request a review of the application. We would recommend getting a letter of support from the CF Consultant to explain more about your condition in support of this appeal.

Your local Citizens Information Centre may have an Information Officer that can help you with your appeal.

CFI are also happy to support you in this respect so please contact the CF Advocates Tomás or Caroline, or call the National Office for more information on how we can help you through this process.



### HSE

If you are unhappy with a decision made by the HSE concerning your entitlement to a Medical Card or GP Visit Card, you have the right of appeal to the HSE Appeals Officer.

### For more information:

[www.hse.ie/eng/services/ysys/Appeals/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/ysys/Appeals/)

**Note:** It is important that you set out your case fully and provide grounds for the appeal.

### SOCIAL WELFARE APPEALS

If you have been refused a social welfare benefit or you disagree with a decision of a Social Welfare Deciding Officer you should appeal within 21 days of the decision.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office is an independent agency. It is not part of the Department of Social Protection. For more information, log on to [www.socialwelfareappeals.ie](http://www.socialwelfareappeals.ie).

## TAX CREDITS AND RELIEFS

This section addresses the various tax credits and reliefs that have been established to help with certain costs of living with a disability

### TAX RELIEF ON MEDICAL EXPENSES

Tax relief may be claimed on certain medical expenses at the standard rate of tax (20%) providing they are not already covered by the State, your private health insurance or any other source (for example, a compensation claim).

What this means is that if €1,000 is spent on medical expenses, then 20% (i.e., €200) can be claimed from the Revenue Commissioners, provided the person making the claim is paying at least €200 tax. Nursing home costs may be reclaimed at the marginal rate of tax (which can be either 20% or 41%).

It is important to note that any person can pay for medical expenses for any other person, and claim the tax relief. There does not have to be any relationship between the two parties.

You can claim relief on eligible expenses for the past 4 years. So, for example, in 2014 you can make a claim for 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010. After December 31st 2014, a claim for expenses for 2010 may not be made.

1. For PAYE taxpayers, a MED 1 (MED 2 in case of dental treatment) form should be completed and sent to the Revenue Commissioners. Alternatively a claim can be made by claiming online via Revenues PAYE Anytime Service.
2. If you use a Form 11 (for self assessed taxpayers) to make a tax return and claim reliefs and credits, you enter the amount of the health expenses at Panel I on the Form 11. There is no need to complete a MED1 form in this case.

In either case, receipts should not be sent to the Revenue, but retained for inspection for a period of 6 years as Revenue may audit your claim.

### What medical expenses can I claim for?

The Revenue Commissioners ([www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)) contains an exhaustive list of qualifying expenses. We list below some of the main qualifying expenses:

- Doctor and consultant fees
- Diagnostic procedures carried out on the advice of a practitioner
- Drugs or medicines prescribed by a doctor, dentist, or consultant

- Maintenance or treatment in a hospital in connection with the services of a practitioner
- Some travel and telephone expenses relating to health issues (see later)
- Diabetic/coeliac foods and products (doctor's letter required)
- Supply, maintenance or repair of any medical, surgical, dental or nursing appliance used on the advice of a practitioner (for example, oxygen equipment, a glucometer, hearing aids, exercise bicycle, computer, orthopaedic bed or wheelchair)
- Laser vision correction surgery
- Physiotherapy treatment – on the advice of a doctor
- Orthoptic treatment
- Speech and language therapy and educational psychological assessment
- Certain items of expenditure in respect of a child suffering from a serious life-threatening illness (see later)
- Kidney patients' expenses (up to a maximum amount depending on whether the patient uses hospital dialysis, home dialysis or CAPD)
- Non-routine dental treatment
- Non-routine ophthalmic care
- In vitro fertilisation (IVF)



### *Travel*

There are two types of travel that qualify for relief:

#### *A. Travel relief available generally to the public at large*

Tax relief may be claimed in respect of the cost of transport by ambulance. Where regular continuing treatment or consultation is required and the patient has to travel long distances, tax relief may be claimed in respect of the cost of travelling other than by ambulance.

No relief is available for the car parking fees. Relief will not be granted for minor local travelling expenses or occasional travelling [e.g., to undergo an operation (unless by ambulance)].

#### *B. Travel (& other reliefs) relief available specifically to children with life-threatening illnesses:*

Apart from normal health-related expenditure, tax relief is also available for other expenditure incurred in respect

of children with life-threatening illnesses (including children with CF) and children with permanent disabilities who require constant or regular hospital care. Constant or regular hospital care does not necessarily mean being permanently in hospital. However, it does imply regular hospital attendance or supervision appropriate to the serious illness.

The following qualifies for relief:

1. The cost incurred in transporting (unlimited journeys) the child and accompanying parents or guardians to and from hospital
2. The cost incurred by the parents or guardians of the child in visiting the hospital when the child is an 'inpatient' where such trips are shown to be essential to the treatment of the child.

If a private car is used, the cost of travel is determined at a rate specified. The cost of travel is determined at €0.27/

mile or €0.17/km. For example, a round trip from Mayo to Dublin for treatment is approximately 450km. This would amount to 450km x €0.17 = €76.50 per trip. This would be filled into Section (J) 'Other Qualifying Expenses' on the MED1 form, and would result in a tax rebate of 20% x 76.50 = €15.30.

No relief is available for car parking fees.

**Other medical tax reliefs relating to CF Telephone**

Where the child is being treated at home, a flat rate to include telephone rental and calls may be claimed where the expenses are incurred for purposes directly connected with the treatment of the child. The rates are as follows:

Telephone Expenses for Years 2010-2013			
2010	2011	2012	2013
€300	€310	€305	€305

**Overnight accommodation**

Payments made by the parent or guardian to a hospital, hotel or B&B in respect of overnight accommodation in or near the hospital where the child is a patient where such overnight stay is necessary for the treatment of the child.

**Hygiene products and special clothing**

Relief will be allowed in respect of these items subject to a maximum of €500 per year.



**Note:** Claims in respect of the cost of minding brothers or sisters of the patient while the parents or guardians attend the hospital are not allowable.

### How to apply

The Med1 form needs to be completed. You can get this online or text '51829' with the word 'FORM' followed by your PPS number and 'MED1'. You can make claims retrospectively for the previous four years; a separate Med1 form must be completed for each individual tax year.

Alternatively you can log on to PAYE Anytime on the Revenue website ([www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie)); registration will be required and you will need to wait for a PIN to be issued to you.

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### INCAPACITATED CHILD TAX CREDIT

This tax credit is available to any taxpayer who has living with them, at any time during a tax year, a child, who;

(i) Is under 18 years old and is permanently incapacitated (i.e., a child with CF)

or

(ii) If over 18 years is permanently incapacitated and cannot maintain him/herself, and was so before reaching the age of 21, or was in full time education at the time s/he became permanently incapacitated.

In the case of a child under the age of 18 years the legislation specifies that the child shall be regarded as permanently incapacitated by reason of mental or physical infirmity only if the infirmity is such that there would be a reasonable expectation that, if the child were over 18 years, the child would be incapacitated from maintaining himself or herself.

Factors which should be taken into account in deciding whether or not a child has the capacity to "maintain himself or herself" include

- The severity of the mental or physical condition
- The likelihood that the condition could, by the age of 18, be improved or ameliorated by any treatment, device, medication or therapy,
- The extent to which the individual, by the age of 18, would have the ability or a potential to support themselves by earning a living from employment,
- The extent to which, by the age of 18, the child would have the capacity for independent living.

This tax credit is effectively a discount off the taxpayer's tax bill. The credit is available in respect of each incapacitated child/adult. "Child" includes a stepchild.

### Rate

In 2014, the incapacitated child tax credit is €3,300. It was €3,300 for 2013, 2012 & 2011. It was €3,660 in 2010.

### How to apply

Contact your local tax office outlining the credit claimed and the name(s) of the child(ren)/adult. A first claim should be accompanied by a doctor's certificate showing:

- The date the incapacity first arose (date of diagnosis)
- The degree and extent of the incapacity

You can claim this credit by completing the claim form 'Claim for Incapacitated Child Tax Credit' on the Revenue website or by contacting your Regional Revenue LoCall Service.

- Permanently incapacitated from maintaining yourself and
- Your tax credits (including your spouse's) for the year exceed the tax that would be chargeable on your (and your spouse's) income for the year

### How to apply for a DIRT refund

Form 54D must be completed to apply for a refund of DIRT.

You will need to get a Certificate of Interest from your bank, building society, credit union, etc, and include this with your application.

### Exemption from DIRT

You can apply to have your deposit interest paid without the deduction of DIRT. Complete form DE2 and return it to Revenue.

Both of these forms are available on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) or from your local Citizen's information Centre. Send the completed forms to your local Revenue office.

### For more information on tax relief:

- [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) or contact your local revenue office.
- A Guide to Claiming Health or Medical Expenses Relief - IT6: [www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it6.html](http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/it6.html)
- Tax Credits and Reliefs info sheet (CFI)

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## TAX RELIEF ON DEPOSIT INTEREST RETENTION TAX

Banks, building societies and post offices offer accounts where you can save a sum of money (a deposit) for which they will pay you an annual rate of interest in return, usually as a percentage of the deposit. The interest you receive is subject to a tax called Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT).

From 1 January 2014, DIRT is charged at 41% on all interest payment.

### People with disabilities

You can get your deposit interest paid without the deduction of DIRT or a DIRT refund, if you are:

## HOUSING GRANT SUPPORTS

### Below is information about some of the housing grants and schemes that may be of interest to a person with Cystic Fibrosis

Your local authority administers two schemes that provide support for families affected by a disability to carry out adaptations in the home to make it a more suitable environment for the person with the disability to live in.

The two schemes are the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability and the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme. You cannot apply for both schemes simultaneously. A brief overview of both grants is provided below but please contact your local authority for further information on application forms as they may not be available online.



extension to create more space, adding a ground-floor bathroom or toilet, making it wheelchair-accessible, or adding a stair-lift.

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### HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

The housing adaptation grant is there to assist with changes that need to be made to your home to make it more suitable for a person with a disability to live in. The person's disability must be lasting and involve physical, sensory, mental health or learning difficulties.

#### What can the grant be used for?

The grant can be used to make changes and adaptations to your home. The types of works covered include building an

#### How do I know if I qualify?

This grant is means-tested; income of all household members is included in the means test (though Carer's Allowance should be disregarded). The total household income is assessed to find out whether you qualify for the grant and the amount payable. Applicants must prove that they have complied with the Local Property Tax.

*Applications are prioritised based on medical need.*

#### What is the grant worth?

Priority will be given to people on medical grounds. If your household income is less

than €30,000 you may qualify for 95% of the cost of the works (up to the maximum grant amount of €30,000). The proportion of the costs to be grant-aided will be tapered from 95% to 30% which will apply when household income is between €54,001 and €60,000.

**Note:** The grant will not be paid if you start work before the grant is approved. However, it is expected that the work will start within 6 months of grant approval.

If you are a local authority tenant, the local authority will meet the entire cost of the works.

### **How to apply**

Contact your local authority for an application form. The Housing Grants Scheme is generally open for a limited period of the year (usually the beginning) by each county council.

An occupational therapist's (OT) assessment is also required. The local authority can arrange for an OT assessment, but you can hire an OT privately to carry out an assessment and recoup up to €200 as part of the total grant, up to the maximum you are entitled to.

### **For more information:**

Contact the Housing Department of your Local County Council for more information.

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## **MOBILITY AID GRANT SCHEME**

You can apply to this scheme to address mobility problems in the home. For example, the grant can be used for the purchase and installation of grab-rails, a level access shower, access ramps or a stair-lift.

### **What is the grant worth?**

The maximum grant available is €6,000 and may cover 100% of the cost of the work.

### **How are applications assessed?**

As for the housing adaptation grant, applications are prioritised based on medical need. The local authority might again request an OT assessment to support your application.

### **Is this grant means tested?**

Yes – this grant is only available to people with a maximum household income less than €30,000.

Income from all household members is taken into consideration when assessing means. Applicants must also prove that they have complied with the Local Property Tax.

### **How to apply**

Contact your Local Authority for an application form.

### **For more information:**

Contact your Local Authority.



**BETTER ENERGY HOME SCHEME**

The Better Energy Homes Scheme provides grants to certain homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their home.

**What can this grant be used for?**

The Better Energy Homes Scheme covers the following energy-saving work:

Measure	Better Energy Homes grant
Attic insulation	€200
Cavity wall insulation	€250
Wall insulation – internal dry lining	
- Apartment (any) or mid-terrace house	€900
- Semi-detached or end of terrace house	€1,350
- Detached house	€1,800
Wall insulation – external	
- Apartment (any) or mid-terrace house	€1,800
- Semi-detached or end of terrace house	€2,700
- Detached house	€3,600
High efficiency (>90% efficiency) gas or oil fired boiler with heating controls upgrade	€560

Measure	Better Energy Homes grant
Heating controls upgrade	€400
Solar heating	€800
A BER assessment after works are done	€50

**How do I know if my home would benefit from energy-saving work?**

You can use the Home Energy Self Survey to identify areas in your home which could be improved to increase its energy efficiency.

You can also get a Building Energy Rating (BER) done in advance of any works. A BER assessor will energy rate your home and provide you with an advisory report.



### How do I qualify for the scheme?

To qualify for a grant you must:

- Be the owner of a dwelling built before 2006
- Use a contractor from SEAI's registered list
- Have a BER carried out after the works are done
- Use a BER assessor from SEAI's National Register
- Apply for a minimum amount of €400 with your first application

**Note:** you must have grant approval before you buy materials or start any grant-funded energy saving work. If you have already started work, you will not be eligible for a grant.

### How to apply

You can apply online at [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie) or download an application form. Online applications will get a response within 3 working days. Postal applications will get a response within 20 working days. SEAI has produced a guide to help with your application, which is also available online.

#### For more Information:

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

**t:** 1850 927 000

**e:** [hes@seai.ie](mailto:hes@seai.ie)

**w:** [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)

# TRANSPORT SUPPORTS

## This section provides information on what travel supports are available for people with a disability

### DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING CARD

Disabled Person's Parking Permits or Cards (also known as European Parking Cards or Disabled Parking Badge) are available to people living in Ireland with certain disabilities and those who are registered blind, whether they are drivers or passengers. The parking card can be used by a disabled person in any vehicle in which he or she is travelling. This means that a disabled person who is being driven at different times by different people can bring the parking card and display it in the appropriate vehicle. The parking card is valid for 2 years from date of issue. Generally, the card is not issued to anyone under 5 years of age.

Disabled Parking Cards can be used by disabled people within the 28 member states of the EU and are also recognised in the US and Canada. This means that when you travel abroad, you can bring your European Parking Card with you. However, you must observe the motoring laws and restrictions on parking in other countries.

You must hold a Primary Medical Certificate to get the parking card. To obtain an application form for this contact your Local Health Office. You must complete the application form and return it to the Senior Medical Officer of the

Local Health Office. The Senior Medical Officer then appoints a HSE doctor to visit your home and carry out an assessment of the level of your disability.

You will automatically qualify for a parking card if you already hold a Primary Medical Certificate, however, you must still formally apply for the parking card.

### Rates

For a new applicant, a parking card costs €35. To find out the cost of renewing your parking card or replacing a lost or stolen card, contact the agency who issued you with your card.



### How to apply

To obtain an application form for a parking card, write to either the Disabled Drivers Association or the Irish Wheelchair Association enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope. Give details about

your disability and how it affects your mobility. If you have a Primary Medical Certificate you should mention it.

The application form must be completed and certified by your doctor and must be countersigned by a Garda. Decision makers within the issuing authorities will determine if you are eligible based on the information provided.

Applications to have lost/misplaced cards replaced should be made in writing directly to the Association you originally applied to (see below).

### Where to apply

Disabled Drivers Association  
Parking Card Section  
Ballindine  
Claremorris  
Mayo  
**t:** 094 936 4054  
**f:** 094 936 4336  
**e:** [info@ddai.ie](mailto:info@ddai.ie)  
**w:** [www.ddai.ie](http://www.ddai.ie)

Irish Wheelchair Association  
National Mobility Centre  
Ballinagappa Road  
Clane  
Kildare  
**t:** 045 893094/5  
**f:** 045 861144  
**e:** [maats@iwa.ie](mailto:maats@iwa.ie)  
**w:** [www.iwa.ie](http://www.iwa.ie)

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## MOBILITY ALLOWANCE AND MOTORISED TRANSPORT GRANT

The **Mobility Allowance** is a means tested monthly payment that people with a disability could apply for who were unable to walk or use public transport and who would benefit from a change in surroundings. In 2013, the Department of Health announced that the Mobility Allowance scheme was closed to new applicants. An alternative scheme is being devised to replace it. The Mobility Allowance will continue to be paid to those already receiving it until the scheme is replaced.

The **Motorised Transport Grant** is a means-tested HSE payment for people in Ireland with disabilities who need to buy a car in order to retain employment. This payment was also for people with disabilities who need to have a car or other vehicle adapted in order to enable them to drive and, as a result, earn a living.

In 2013, the Department of Health announced that the Motorised Transport Grant scheme was closed to new applicants. An alternative scheme is being devised to replace it.

## EDUCATION SUPPORTS/TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT

There are a variety of supports available for people with Cystic Fibrosis who are thinking about re-entering the workforce or pursuing further education

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

#### Training services

SOLAS (formerly known as FÁS) is the national agency delivering vocational training to people with disabilities. Vocational training services for people with disabilities are provided by SOLAS on an integrated basis. SOLAS also provides a range of employment-related supports for people with disabilities. These include adaptations grants, disability awareness training for employers and grants to retain workers who have become disabled while in employment. People with disabilities are eligible for the full range of back to work supports including the community employment and social economy schemes.

The HSE is responsible for rehabilitative training that is not directly linked to the labour market. People in rehabilitative training may be paid a Rehabilitative Training Allowance by the HSE or a training provider. The HSE has taken responsibility for this area since July 2000 when services for people with disabilities were mainstreamed. Formerly, rehabilitative training was organised by the National Rehabilitation Board. HSE Areas also have responsibility

for providing for or arranging for the provision of sheltered work for people with disabilities.

#### Education

Children up to the age of 18 are entitled to education services. Responsibility for education services lies with the Department of Education and Skills. There are specific arrangements in place for children with special needs.

The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 provides for the education of children under 18 with special educational needs. The Act focuses on children's education but there are references to further and adult education.

The provision of education services for children with disabilities is closely connected to the provision of health-related support services for children with disabilities. Sometimes the dividing line between the two is not clear. These services include speech and language therapy and occupational therapy and physiotherapy services and are generally provided on an outreach basis to children of school going age.



Psychological services are provided by the HSE to, amongst others, people with learning disabilities or autism. Psychological services are also provided by the National Educational Psychological Service, which is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills.

For more information on adult education, please read the **Guide to Third Level Education for People with CF (CFI)**.

### **Supports and training**

Labour market services for people with disabilities include helping them find paid employment or preparing them for work through training or employment programmes. Employment supports are provided by the Department of Social Protection.



There is vocational training for the unemployed and for people who are re-entering the workforce through specific skills training and traineeships. Training for people in employment is offered through apprenticeships and in-company training. People with disabilities are encouraged to make use of all these training options.

Training courses for people with disabilities who may need more intensive support than would be available in non-specialist training courses are delivered by specialist training providers. Some key features of specialist training include adapted equipment, a more individual approach and longer training sessions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### For more Information and Advice on Supports for People with Cystic Fibrosis:

- Refer to the Citizens Information Website ([www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)), freephone 0761 07 4000 or call into your local Citizens Information Centre
- Entitlements for People with Disabilities, a publication by the Citizens Information Board, 2010 [www.citizensinformationboard.ie/publications/providers/downloads/entitlements\\_for\\_people\\_with\\_disabilities\\_2012.pdf](http://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/publications/providers/downloads/entitlements_for_people_with_disabilities_2012.pdf))
- Contact your local Intreo Centre: [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Intreo---Contact-Information.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Intreo---Contact-Information.aspx)
- Refer to the Department of Social Protection website [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)
- A Guide to Third Level Education for People with CF (CFI)
- Tax Relief and Credits for Parents and People with CF (CFI)
- Call our CFI Patient Advocates Tomás Thompson or Caroline Heffernan
- Link in with the Social Worker at your CF centre

Carer's Allowance/ Benefit Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Department of Social Protection  
Government Buildings  
Ballinalee Road  
Longford  
**t:** 043 334 0000  
**Local:** 1890 92 77 70  
**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Citizens Information Helpline  
**t:** 0761 07 4000

Client Identity Services  
Department of Social Protection  
Shannon Lodge  
Carrick-On-Shannon

Co. Leitrim  
**Local:** 1890 927 999

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland National Office  
24 Lower Rathmines Road  
Dublin 6  
**t:** 01 496 2433  
**Local:** 1890 311211  
**e:** [info@cfireland.ie](mailto:info@cfireland.ie)  
**w:** [www.cfireland.ie](http://www.cfireland.ie)

Disability Allowance Section  
Social Welfare Services Office  
Department of Social Protection  
College Road, Sligo  
**t:** 043 334 0000  
**Local:** 1890 92 77 70  
**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

Disabled Drivers Association  
Parking Card Section  
Ballindine  
Claremorris  
Mayo  
**t:** 094 936 4054  
**f:** 094 936 4336  
**e:** [info@ddai.ie](mailto:info@ddai.ie)  
**w:** [www.ddai.ie](http://www.ddai.ie)

Free Travel Section (Freepost)  
Social Welfare Services  
College Road  
Sligo  
**t:** 071 915 7100  
**Local:** 1890 500 000  
**w:** [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

HSE Info Line  
**t:** 1850 24 1850

HSE Central Medical Card Office  
Client Registration Unit  
P.O Box 11745  
Finglas, Dublin 11  
**w:** [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie)

Household Benefits Section  
Social Welfare Services  
College Road  
Sligo  
**t:** 071 915 7100  
**Local:** 1890 500 000

Irish Wheelchair Association  
National Mobility Centre  
Ballinagappa Road  
Clane  
Kildare  
**t:** 045 893094/5  
**f:** 045 861144  
**e:** [maats@iwa.ie](mailto:maats@iwa.ie)  
**w:** [www.iwa.ie](http://www.iwa.ie)

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

SOLAS  
27-33 Upper Baggot Street  
Dublin 4  
**t:** 01 607 0500  
**e:** [info@solas.ie](mailto:info@solas.ie)

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland  
**t:** 1850 927 000  
**e:** [hes@seai.ie](mailto:hes@seai.ie)  
**w:** [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)









## About Cystic Fibrosis Ireland

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland (CFI) is a registered charity CHY 6350 that was set up by parents in 1963 to improve the treatment and facilities for people with CF in Ireland. It is a national organisation with many Branches around the country.

CFI is committed to working to improve CF services in Ireland and our recent progress includes:

- Lobbying to ensure that the new national adult CF centre in St Vincent's University Hospital was completed with up to 34 in-patient beds for people with CF
- Providing funding towards new CF Units around the country including Crumlin, Drogheda, Galway, Mayo, Waterford, Beaumont and Limerick Hospitals
- Funding research in Cork University Hospital and University College Dublin
- Campaigning to improve the rate of double lung transplantation in Ireland
- Providing advice and expertise



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Ireland



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