

NEW ENTITLEMENTS FROM 2018**

☀ **GP VISIT CARD:** If you qualify for Carer's Benefit or Allowance, you are now eligible to a GP visit card. Cardholders are entitled to visit their GP free of charge. You must pay for any medicines, public hospital visits. **Please visit www.welfare.ie**

☀ **BETTER ENERGY WARMER HOMES SCHEME.** From August 1st, family carers in receipt of **Domiciliary Care Allowance** or **Carer's Allowance** are eligible for the **Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme**. The scheme offers **FREE** energy efficiency upgrades to homeowners helping make your home warmer, healthier and cheaper to run.

Improvements include **FREE** attic/cavity wall/external wall/internal wall insulation; replacement windows; heating upgrade; heating controls; ventilation; draught proofing. For more details and to download the application form, please visit <https://energyaction.ie/ea/contact-warmer-homes/> (registered charity) or <https://www.seai.ie/grants/homegrants/warmer-homes-scheme/>

Disabled drivers' & passengers tax relief

- Drivers or passengers with physical disabilities, who use a specially adapted motor vehicle are entitled to claim exemption from vehicle registration tax and VAT on their vehicles, and exemption from annual road tax. Since 1 January 2015 if you qualify for tax relief under the scheme you are also eligible for a Fuel Grant Application forms are available from the Office of Revenue Commissioners.

DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING CARD/ CAR ADAPPTIONS

- Available to drivers, or passengers, with a disability which affects their mobility (aged 5 or over) for use in any car in which they travel. Apply in writing, for an application form, to the Irish Wheelchair association or Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland. These two associations also provide advice on suitable car adaptations to meet individual needs

There are a number of other allowances or payments, which you may be entitled to:

- **Disability Allowance (16+)**
- **Family Income Supplement**
- **Grant for adaptation/extension of house, to facilitate disabled person**
- **Free Travel Pass/Companion Pass**
- **Further info available from your local Citizens' Information Centre or lo-call 0761 074000/ www.citizensinformation.ie**

Your Social Worker is also available to offer support with any queries in applying for Entitlements.



St. Michael's House

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Tel: 01 8840200

Entitlement Information for Carers

(FROM OCTOBER 2018)



St. Michael's House



DOMICILIARY CARE ALLOWANCE

- DCA is a monthly payment for carers of children with learning disabilities
- Payable up until the child is 16 years
- Allowance is €309.50 per month
- Apply to Dept of Social Protection for approval by Medical Assessor..

CARERS SUPPORT GRANT (FORMALLY RESPITE CARE GRANT)

- Is an automatic annual payment made to carers in receipt of Carers' Allowance/ Benefit (Dept of Social Protection) or Domiciliary Care Allowance (Health Board)
- The grant is **€1,700** (correct in June 2017) (it is doubled if you are caring for more than one child) and is processed every June tax free.

INCAPACITATED CHILD TAX CREDIT

- A tax credit of €3,300 can be claimed by parents of a child with a disability.
- A medical report needs to be submitted with your application to your Revenue office. To access the application form, medical form and more information, please visit www.revenue.ie

CARERS ALLOWANCE

- CA is a **long-term** means tested payment for those aged 18+, who are caring for someone on a fulltime basis.
- You can work up to 15 hours a week while receiving this payment
- Weekly payment when caring for one person is up to **€214** if you are under 66 years of age and **€252** if you are over 66 years of age.
- Recipients of CA. are eligible for additional benefits such as Free Travel Pass & household benefits package i.e. free TV license, utility bill.
- If you are already on a pension/welfare payment you may be entitled to a half rate carers allowance on top of what you already receive.

- Application forms are available from your local Social Welfare Office or online at <http://www.welfare.ie/en/pdf/cr1.pdf>

CARERS' BENEFIT

- CB is a **short-term** payment, to those who give up work to care on a fulltime basis. It is payable for a total period of 104 weeks.
- This payment is not means-tested, but you must have sufficient PRSI contributions to qualify
- Normal weekly payment when caring for one person is max **€215** (payment may increase if you are 66+ or caring for more than one) and you can work up to 15 hours a week while receiving this payment but must not earn over €332.50 net.
- Application forms are available from your local SWO. Visit www.welfare.ie

LONG-TERM ILLNESS SCHEME

- Is available to all children with a disability. pending an appointment with the local Area Medical Officer
- Is not means tested.
- It covers medication/equipment specifically related to the child's condition.
- Does not cover G.P. fees.
- Application forms are available in your local health centre & GP or online at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/lti>

MEDICAL CARD

- Is means tested, means are based on household income
- Since 1st June 2017 all children in receipt of **DCA** are entitled to a medical card without means test.
- Medical card entitles you to a range of medical services free of charge i.e. medicines,
- GP fees, public hospital visits
- Application forms are available at your local health centre.

CARERS' LEAVE

- Employees, after one year's service, may take unpaid leave (up to 2 years maximum) to provide fulltime care for someone who needs it
- Application must be made to the Dept of Soc & Family Affairs, for a decision that the person does require fulltime care before you are entitled to take the leave
- The leave may be taken in a block or broken up into shorter periods
- PRSI contribution credits are available & Carers' Benefit may be payable during leave period

NAPPY ALLOWANCE

- 3 – 4 nappies per day available for children over 3 years of age
- Contact your local Public Health Nurse

TREATMENT BENEFIT SCHEME

- The HSE provides hearing aids as well as dental and optical services free of charge to medical card holders., & those with sufficient PRSI contributions Check with your local health centre for approved service providers.

ALLOWANCE FOR EMPLOYING A CARER

- This tax allowance of up to €75,000 at your highest tax rate is available where a person is employed to care for a person with a disability. One or more family members of the person being cared for can claim the allowance. Contact your local tax office.

HOME CARERS TAX CREDIT

- A tax credit of **€1,500** is available for married couples (taxed jointly) where one spouse works in the home caring for a dependent child (for whom child benefit is being paid) a person over 65 or a permanently incapacitated person. The income of the carer must not exceed €7,200.