

Carer's Support Grant

The Carer's Support Grant (formerly Respite Care Grant) is an annual payment made to carers by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

If you care for someone with cancer and are in receipt of Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or Domiciliary Care Allowance, then you will automatically receive a Carer's Support Grant.

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 do so.

What is the rate of payment?

A Carer's Support Grant of €1,850 (June 2021) is paid once each year, usually on the first Thursday in June, for each person you are caring for. It is not taxable.

Who can apply?

The grant is paid automatically to people getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or Domiciliary Care Allowance.

It can also be paid to certain other carers. To qualify, you must be:

- Aged 16 or over
- Ordinarily resident in the State
- Living with the person being cared for or, if not, be contactable quickly by a direct system of communication (for example, telephone or alarm)
- Caring for the person on a full-time basis
- Caring for the person for at least 6 months

During this 6-month caring period, you cannot:

- Work more than 18.5 hours per week outside the home
- Take part in an education or training course for more than 18.5 hours a week
- Get Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit
- Sign on for credited contributions

or

- Live in a hospital, convalescent home or similar institution

If you are caring for more than one person, a grant is paid for *each* of them.

Monica (37) has been living with and caring for her brother who has lung cancer. She has been receiving Carer's Benefit, as she left her job to care for him full-time. As a recipient of Carer's Benefit, she will automatically receive the Carer's Support Grant in June.

How do I apply?

If you are getting Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or Domiciliary Care Allowance, you do not need to apply for the Carer's Support Grant. It will be automatically paid to you in June.

If you are not getting one of the above payments, you can visit the [Department's website](#) to download and complete an application form CSG1.

OR

You can visit your local [Social Welfare Office or Intreo Centre](#) to complete and submit an application.

If you were not getting one of the above payments but got the Carer's Support Grant last year, you do not need to re-apply this year. The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection will send you a letter and a short 2-page questionnaire in April. You must return the completed questionnaire as it will be used to assess you for the Carer's Support Grant this year.

The information above is an overview of the Carers Support Grant

For detailed information, applicants are advised to:

- Visit [Citizens Information](#) online
- Call Citizens Information on 0761 07 4000 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm
- Visit your local [Citizens Information](#) office
- Call our Cancer Support Line on Freephone 1800 200 700 – Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm
- Contact your Medical Social Worker