

Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is for those on a low income caring for someone who needs support because of age, disability or illness (including mental illness). It is a means-tested weekly from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

If you are on a low income and you are caring for someone who needs support due to their cancer, you may be eligible for either Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit.

What is the rate of payment?

Carer's Allowance rates 2020

Carer	Maximum weekly rate	Increase per week for a child dependant
Aged under 66, caring for 1 person	€ 219	Child under 12 years of age €38.00 (full-rate) €19.00 (half-rate)
Aged under 66, caring for 2 or more people	€ 328.50	Child aged 12 and over
Aged 66 or over and caring for 1 person	€ 257	
Aged 66+, caring for 2 people	€ 385.50	

If you are receiving Carer's Allowance, you may also be entitled to:

- Household Benefits Package
- A Free Travel Pass
- Carer's Support Grant

Who can apply?

To qualify for Carer's Allowance, you must:

- Live with and care for or be in a position to provide full-time care to a person in need of care who does not normally live in an institution
- Meet the [habitual residence](#) condition - this means that you have lived in Ireland for some time and intend to stay in Ireland for the foreseeable future
- Not live in a hospital, convalescent home or other similar institution
- Be at least 18 years old
- Not be engaged in work or education courses outside the home for more than 18.5 hours a week
- Show that your income is below a certain level (means test)

Sarah's mum has been diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer and her doctor has advised that she needs full-time care at home. Sarah (22) had been attending college and living at home. She has decided to take some time off to take care of her mum. As she has no other income currently, Sarah should apply for the Carer's Allowance. She can get help filling in the application form from her local Citizens Information office.

How do I apply?

You should apply for Carer's Allowance as soon as possible.

You can apply by filling out a CR1 application form, which is available on the Department of Social Protection [website](#).

With your application you must include a doctor's medical report that is also signed by the person you will be caring for.

Return your application, with the relevant supporting documentation, to:

Social Welfare Services Office

Government Buildings

Ballinalee Road

Longford, N39 E4E0

OR

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

The information above is an overview of Carers Allowance

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