

Supplementary Welfare Allowance

Supplementary Welfare Allowance is a weekly allowance paid to people who do not have enough income to meet their needs and those of their families. This is a means tested payment.

Cancer patients who are waiting for their Illness Benefit application to be processed or whose income is below the Supplementary Welfare Allowance rate for their family size, may qualify for the Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

What is the rate of payment?

Supplementary Welfare Allowance rates

Age	Maximum personal rate	Increase for an adult dependant	Increase for a child dependant
Aged 25 and over	€201	€134.70	€38 for a child aged under 12 €45 for a child aged 12 or over
Aged 18-24 and living independently*	€201	€112.70	
Aged 18-24 and not living independently	€112.70		People aged 18-24 with children qualify for the maximum personal rate of €201

*The rate of €201 for people aged under 25 is only for people living independently and getting a state housing support such as Rent Supplement, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

Who can apply?

If you have no income or your weekly income is below the Supplementary Welfare Allowance rate for your family size, a payment may be made to bring your income up to the appropriate Supplementary Welfare Allowance rate.

If you have claimed for a social welfare benefit or pension but it has not yet been paid and you have no other income, you may qualify for the allowance while waiting for the payment. However, the amount paid while you are waiting will be deducted from the arrears of your social welfare payment.

You may qualify for Supplementary Welfare Allowance if you:

- Are living in the State and satisfy the habitual residence condition
- Pass the means test
- Have applied for any other benefit or allowance you may be entitled to
- Have registered for work with your local [Intreo Centre or Social Welfare office](#), if you are of working age

How do I apply?

You can apply for a Supplementary Welfare Allowance from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. This can be done at your local [Social Welfare office](#) or Intreo Centre as soon as the need arises.

You will need to fill in the SWA1 claim form and supply the following:

- PPS numbers for yourself, your spouse/partner and your children
- Proof of where you live, e.g. a household bill
- Proof of your identity
- Evidence of any household income
- Birth certificates for any children you include in your application
- Documents to show your income and financial situation, such as, pay slips, tax and bank statements

The information above is an overview of the Supplementary Welfare 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