

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP is a form of social housing support for people who have a long-term housing need. HAP is available in all local authority areas throughout the State.

If your child has cancer, and you are living in or seeking rented accommodation, you may qualify for a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

The scheme is administered by the local authorities, who pay landlords directly. Tenants pay a weekly HAP rent contribution to the local authority, based on their income and ability to pay. Under the HAP scheme you can take up full-time employment and keep your housing support.

How does HAP work?

Under HAP you must find your own private rented accommodation. The local authority will not source it for you. In general, the rent must be within the prescribed HAP rent limits for your household size and the area you live in.

The local authority will make the HAP payment to your landlord on your behalf, subject to certain conditions:

- You must pay a weekly HAP rent contribution to the local authority – if you don't pay your contribution, the local authority will stop paying your landlord
- If you get a social welfare payment at a post office, you must pay your HAP contribution through the Household Budget Scheme
- The accommodation must meet certain minimum standards for rented housing
- Your landlord must have current evidence of tax compliance
- You (and anyone in your household) must not engage in anti-social behaviour

What is the rate of payment?

The maximum amount of rent support provided is based on where you live and your family circumstances. [Maximum rent limits](#) have been established for a number of administrative areas (mostly set on a county basis) and a number of set family compositions.

The weekly amount you contribute to your rental costs will be based your household income and how much you can afford to pay. If your income increases so does your rent contribution, and if your income decreases, the weekly rent contribution decreases accordingly. This is called the differential rent scheme.

Check with your local authority for the details of their differential rent scheme.

How do I apply?

If you are not yet on your local authority's housing list, you will need to apply directly to the local authority for social housing support. You can learn more at Citizen's Information.

If you are already on the housing list, you can ask the local authority for a HAP application form. This form only needs to be filled in when you have found suitable accommodation, or if you are already in private rented accommodation and eligible to transfer to HAP. Your landlord will need to complete and sign part of the HAP application form.

If you are a tenant and in any doubt about whether your tenancy arrangement qualifies for HAP, check with your [local authority](#).

The information above is an overview of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

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