

Rent Supplement

Rent Supplement is a payment for people living in private rented accommodation who cannot provide for the cost of their accommodation from their own resources. It is a short-term income support.

A cancer diagnosis can bring financial difficulties. If your family has been affected by a cancer and you cannot meet the cost of your rent, you may be eligible for Rent Supplement.

What is the rate of payment?

The amount of Rent Supplement is primarily determined by your monthly rental cost and how much income you receive.

Everyone who gets rent supplement is expected to contribute towards their rent. A single person is expected to contribute at least €30 a week. A couple is expected to contribute at least €40 a week.

The [maximum amount of rent support](#) provided is based on where in Ireland you live and your family circumstances.

Who can apply?

To qualify for Rent Supplement, the officer dealing with your case must be satisfied that, at the time of application, that you are in a bona fide (genuine) tenancy and:

- Your income is below the limit to qualify for Rent Supplement (a means test)
- You normally live in Ireland and plan to live in Ireland for the foreseeable future (habitual residence test)
- You are not in full-time employment (30 hours or more a week). In the case of couples, if one is in full-time employment, both are excluded from claiming Rent Supplement.
- You had received rent supplement before within 12 months of your new application

OR

- You have lived in private rented accommodation for a period of 183 days (6 months) in the 12 months before the date you apply for Rent Supplement. There must have been a substantial change in your circumstances during this period, meaning that you have gone from being able to afford the rent to no longer being able to do so. This may be the case for families who have been affected by cancer.

How do I apply?

Visit your local [Social Welfare or Intreo office](#) to complete application form SWA RS1.

OR

Fill out form SWA RS1, which you can download from the Department of Social Protection [website](#).

You should send your application form along with any relevant supporting documentation to your local Intreo or Social Welfare Branch office.

The information above is an overview of Rent Supplement

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