

Budget 2025: Key announcements for Family Carers

“Carers play a fundamental role in our society, and Government is committed to supporting individuals and families with caring responsibilities.” Minister Jack Chambers

<p>Social Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €12 increase in all weekly social welfare payments including Carer’s Allowance and Carer’s Benefit; There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate; DCA to be increased by €20 (From January 2025) • Increase in Carer’s Allowance income disregard for means test from €450 to €625 per week for a single person and from €900 to €1,250 per week for a couple (From July 2025) • Increase in the Carers Support Grant from €1,850 to €2,000 (Paid annually in June) • Carer’s Benefit extended to self-employed workers (From January 2025) • Double week Cost of Living bonus to pensioners, carers, lone parents, people on disability payment and long-term jobseeker recipient (October 2024) • Once off payments : €400 for recipients of Carer’s Support Grant, Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, Invalidity Pension and Domiciliary Care Allowance (only payable in respect of one payment, even if you qualify for more than one of these payments or are caring for more than one person); €200 Living Alone Allowance; €300 Fuel Allowance; €400 Working Family Payment; €100 Child Support Payment for each qualified child - (All paid in November 2024) • Christmas Bonus for all long-term social welfare recipients to be paid in December 2024, including those on Carer’s Allowance, Carer’s Benefit and Domiciliary Care Allowance (December 2024) • Two Child Benefit payment (Paid in November and December 2024) • Qualified Child Payment to be renamed as the Child Support Payment – weekly payments will for under 12s will increase by €4 to €50 and by €8 to €62 for over 12s (From January 2025) • Two €125 energy credits before and Christmas • Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Parent’s Benefit increased by €15 to €289 per week (From January 2025)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newborn Baby Grant of €280 in addition to the first month of Child Benefit (€140) for children born on or after 1st January 2025 • €60 increase in the income thresholds for the Working Family payment regardless of family size (From January 2025) • Means test disregard for Fuel Allowance extended to those aged 66 and over - €524 (single person) and €1,048 (couple) (From January 2025) • Carer's Allowance to become eligible payment for Fuel Allowance (From January 2025, if you meet all eligibility criteria) • Auto Enrolment will start 30th September 2025 • Increase in the disregard for Sale of Residence where a person enters care from €190,500 to €337,500 (for State Pension Non-Contributory/Disability Allowance and Blind Pension).
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palliative care budget up 13% to €179 million • Mental health budget up 10% to 1.48 billion • Older persons services budget up 17% to €1.73 billion • 495 new beds introduced across hospital and community services • 600,000 additional home support hours
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €1,000 reduction in student fees (once-off) • Postgraduate fee contribution increases from €4,000 to €5,000 • Wider eligibility for student grants • Funding for 1,600 extra Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) • 768 Special Education Teachers • 350 more Special Classes • Junior and Leaving Cert fees waived • Free schoolbooks up to Leaving Cert • Increase in funding for the School Transport Scheme • Extension of free hot school meals programme to all 3,000-plus primary schools in 2025 • Pilot programme to provide meals during the summer to low-income students
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Help to Buy to 2029

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €100 million for grants to adapt the homes of older people and people with a disability • €90 million to retrofit around 2,500 social homes in 2025 • 7,400 new social housing leases
Transport/Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Travel Scheme Companion Pass for over 70s to bring a companion on public transport for free (September 2025)¹ • Free public transport for children five to eight • Increased funding for the Warmer Homes Scheme • Extend 9% VAT rate for gas and electricity
Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €125 increase in Personal, Employee PAYE and Earned Income Tax Credit (2025) • €150 increase in Home Care Tax Credit (2025) • €150 increase in Single Person Child Care Tax Credit (2025) • €300 increase in Incapacitated Child Tax Credit (2025) • €300 increase in Blind Person's Tax Credit (2025) • €60 increase in Dependent Relative Tax (2025) • A reduction in the 4% rate of USC to 3% on incomes €25,000 to €70,000 (2025) • USC 2% rate ceiling increases by €1,622 to €27,382 (2025) • 80 cent minimum wage rise to €13.50 (2025) • A €2,000 increase in the threshold for the higher rate of income tax, bringing it to €44,000 (2025) • €250 increase in the Renter's Tax Credit to €1,000 for 2024 and 2025; €2,000 for jointly assessed couple in 2024 and 2025 • One-year Mortgage Interest Relief Scheme to be extended by one year • CAT increase to €400,000 for Group A threshold; Group B increasing from €32,500 to €40,000; Group C threshold increasing from €16,250 to €20,000 (2025)

¹ In July 2024, the government extended the Free Travel Scheme to people aged over 17 and under 66 and; have never been able to drive due to a disability; have been medically certified as 'not fit to drive' for at least 12 months.

