

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

Members in receipt of Family Income Supplement (FIS) *may* be entitled to the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance. This Allowance is provided by the Health Service Executive as part of the Supplementary Welfare Scheme. This Allowance is to help meet the Costs associated with Uniforms and Footwear for Children returning to school in September. The scheme operates from 1 June to 30 September each year.

To get the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, you (the parent or guardian) must meet a number of conditions:

- You must be getting certain social welfare payments or payments for training, employment schemes or adult education. (In the case of members of the Defence Forces this would include Family Income Supplement)
- Your total household income must be below a certain amount
- The child/student must be between 2 and 22 years before 1 October of the year you apply and must be in full-time education at a recognised school or college

Rules

You may qualify for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance if you are in one of these groups:

- **You are getting a social welfare payment (including Family Income Supplement) or a Health Service Executive payment, or**
- You are taking part in an approved employment scheme, or
- You are taking part in a recognised education or training course
- You are involved in an Area Partnership Scheme, or
- You are attending a [FÁS](#), [Fáilte Ireland](#) or LES training scheme

Income limits

To qualify for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, your total household income must be below the amounts set out in the table below.

Your total household income is your main social welfare or Health Service Executive payment, the income of any dependent children on [Youthreach](#) and any other income you may **have including wages (before tax, but excluding PRSI and reasonable travelling expenses).**

Savings and investments (including property, but not your home) are assessed as follows:

Capital	Weekly means assessed
First €5,000	not taken into account

Capital	Weekly means assessed
Next €10,000	€1 per €1,000
Next €25,000	€2 per €1,000
Balance	€4 per €1,000

Any income you get from [Rent Supplement](#) or [Mortgage Interest Supplement](#), [Family Income Supplement](#), [Blind Welfare Allowance](#), [Rehabilitative Training Allowance](#), rehabilitative employment (up to €120 per week), [Home Help](#), [Domiciliary Care Allowance](#), [Mobility Allowance](#) and [Higher Education Grants Scheme](#) **is not counted**.

Couples 2010

Income limits for a couple	
Couple with	Income limit in 2010
1 child	€563.60
2 children	€593.40
3 children	€623.20
4 children	€653*

*The income limit is increased by €29.80 for each additional child.

Lone Parent 2010

Income limit for a lone parent	
Lone parent with	Income limit in 2010
1 child	€410.10
2 children	€439.90
3 children	€469.70
4 children	€499.50*

*The income limit is increased by €29.80 for each additional child.

Rates

The rate of the allowance paid for each eligible child aged 2-11 before 1st October 2010 is €200.

The rate of the allowance paid for each eligible child aged 12-17 before 1st October 2010 is €305.

The allowance is also paid, at the higher rate, for each child aged 18-22, if you are getting an [increase your social welfare payment for that child](#) and he/she is in full-time education.

An additional €215 is paid for children aged 18, if you are getting at least one of the following:

- An increase in your social welfare payment for that child
- A Family Income Supplement payment which includes that child

This means, a child aged 18 will get a Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance of €520.

How to apply

The scheme is open from 1 June to 30 September.

To apply, you can get a form from your local Community Welfare Officer and you can also get a form at your [local Health Center](#).

Where to apply

Where you send your completed application form depends on the county you live in.

Check on the [community welfare service website to find out where to send your application](#).

It may take a number of weeks to process your application.

Appeals

If you are unhappy with the decision on your application, you should write to the Appeals Officer at your Health Service Executive Area, setting out the reason why you are not happy with the decision.

This Circular has been completed with the assistance of the ***Citizens Information Office***.

If you have a question relating to this topic you can contact the Citizens Information Phone Service on lo-call 1890 777 121 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm)

www.citizensinformation.ie There are Citizens Information Offices nationwide in the following locations:

[Carlow](#), [Cavan](#), [Clare](#), [Cork](#), [Donegal](#), [Dublin](#), [Galway](#), [Kerry](#), [Kildare](#), [Kilkenny](#), [Laois](#), [Leitrim](#), [Limerick](#), [Longford](#), [Louth](#), [Mayo](#), [Meath](#), [Monaghan](#), [Offaly](#), [Roscommon](#), [Sligo](#), [Tipperary](#), [Waterford](#), [Westmeath](#), [Wexford](#), [Wicklow](#).