



Emergency Winter Payment

For Disabled People



The Social Democrats want to help people with disabilities in Ireland. They are asking for a special winter payment of €400. This money is to help with extra costs during winter. This payment should happen right away.



Many people in Ireland have a disability. Disabled people often face more problems, like poverty and unemployment. They also have trouble with transport, housing and education.



Disabled people often can't afford things like heating or new clothes. Many live in poverty. Less than a third of disabled people in Ireland have jobs, which is less than other EU countries



Living with a disability costs more money. Things like energy, food and housing are getting more expensive. Disabled people feel these costs more because they spend more time at home.

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The need for a cost of disability payment was seen in 2004. A report in 2021 said it was important. The government promised the payment but didn't include it in Budget 2026.



The Minister for Social Protection said the payment will come in Budget 2027. This means disabled people will wait another year without help as costs rise.



The Social Democrats want disabled people to have dignity and support. They are asking for a €400 winter payment as a quick help until the full payment is ready.

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The €400 payment would go to people on the Disabilities Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension and other supports. It would help about 310,000 people.



There is money available to pay this now. In 2025, the government spent less than planned, so there is extra money.



To pay for these changes, they suggested raising money by increasing taxes on things like gambling.

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