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Qualifying conditions for our schemes change from time to time. Always check with your local Intreo Centre, your local Social Welfare Office or with Information Services to see if qualifying conditions have changed (see page 10 for contact details).

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication.



# 1. What is the Fuel Allowance Scheme?

The Fuel Allowance Scheme is intended to help households that depend on long-term social welfare that are unable to pay for their own heating needs. The Scheme operates over the winter season.

# 2. How do I qualify?

You may qualify for Fuel Allowance if you are:

- Resident in the state
- **and**
- getting one of the following qualifying payments:
  - Jobseeker's Allowance (after 15 months),<sup>1</sup>
  - Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (after 15 months),
  - Farm Assist,
  - One-Parent Family Payment,
  - Jobseeker's Allowance Transition,
  - Blind Pension,
  - Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance,
  - Disability Allowance,
  - Invalidity Pension,
  - State Pension (Contributory or Non-Contributory),

<sup>1</sup> This includes those on casual Jobseeker's Allowance for over 15 months. Time spent getting Jobseeker's Benefit counts towards the 15 months, if the Jobseeker's Benefit claim was immediately before the award of Jobseeker's Allowance.

- Guardian's Payment (Contributory or Non-Contributory),
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partners Pension (Contributory or Non-Contributory),
- Pre-Retirement Allowance (abolished for new claims since 4 July 2007),
- Incapacity Supplement under the Occupational Injury Benefit Scheme,
- Department of Social Protection Employment Support Schemes and Revenue Job Assist (see Section 1.6.4 of the fuel operational guidelines on **www.welfare.ie**,
- Social Security Payment from a country covered by EU Regulations or a country with which Ireland has a bilateral Social Security Agreement (of which there is an Irish equivalent payment),

**and**

- you live alone or **only** with:
  - i) a qualified spouse, civil partner cohabitant or qualified child(ren);
  - ii) a person in receipt of a qualifying payment who would be entitled to the allowance in their own right (Please note that the contributory payments listed above are qualifying payments subject to satisfying a means test);
  - iii) a person who is getting Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit in respect of providing full-time care and attention to the Fuel Allowance applicant or their own qualified spouse, civil partner, cohabitant or qualified child(ren)\*,
  - iv) a person receiving short-term Jobseeker's Allowance or Basic SWA (less than 15 months),

**and**

- be able to provide for their heating needs from the resources of their household. A person applying for a fuel allowance must satisfy a means test. All recipients of non-contributory payments are accepted as satisfying the means test.
- \* A qualified child is under age 18 or aged 18 to 22 if in full-time education. If a child turns 18 while in full-time education and you are getting Jobseeker’s Allowance (for less than 15 months), Jobseeker’s Benefit, Illness Benefit or Supplementary Welfare Allowance, they will remain a qualified child only until they finish full-time education or until the following 30 June, whichever is earlier.

**Note**

**If you are getting Natural Gas or Electricity Allowance under the Household Benefits Package and you use gas or electricity for your heating, you may also be entitled to Fuel Allowance.**

### 3. Can payments from other countries help me qualify?

If you are getting a payment from a country covered by EC Regulations or a Bilateral Social Security Agreement with Ireland (of which there is an Irish equivalent payment), you may qualify for Fuel Allowance if you satisfy the conditions and you are:

- living in Ireland,
- and**
- aged 66 or over,
- or**

- under age 66 and getting Invalidity Pension or Benefit (for over 12 months), a Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Pension or a similar payment from another country covered by EC Regulations or a Bilateral Social Security Agreement (of which there is an Irish equivalent payment).

**The countries covered by either EC Regulations or a Bilateral Agreement are:**

- |                   |                 |                                |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| • Australia       | • Greece        | • Poland                       |
| • Austria         | • Hungary       | • Portugal                     |
| • Belgium         | • Iceland       | • Republic of Korea            |
| • Bulgaria        | • Ireland       | • Romania                      |
| • Canada          | • Isle of Man   | • Slovakia                     |
| • Channel Islands | • Italy         | • Slovenia                     |
| • Cyprus          | • Japan         | • Spain                        |
| • Czech Republic  | • Latvia        | • Sweden                       |
| • Denmark         | • Liechtenstein | • Switzerland                  |
| • Estonia         | • Lithuania     | • the Netherlands              |
| • Finland         | • Luxembourg    | • the United Kingdom           |
| • France          | • Malta         | • the United States of America |
| • Germany         | • New Zealand   |                                |
|                   | • Norway        |                                |

\* Certain limits apply to Jobseeker's Benefit in relation to Switzerland.

You can also take into account periods of insurance or residence in some of these countries to help you qualify.

## 4. Is there any reason why I would not get Fuel Allowance?

You will **not** get Fuel Allowance if, for example:

- you live with someone other than those getting a qualifying payment listed on pages 3 and 4,
- your heating needs are covered under a deed transferring property, or
- in the case of non means-tested payments, you and members of your household have savings and investments of €58,000 or more or a combined weekly income of €100 or more above the appropriate maximum Irish contributory pension for your situation.

For more information, log on to **[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)**.

## 5. How much is the Fuel Allowance?

From January 2016 the Fuel Allowance is currently €22.50 a week.

## 6. How do I get paid Fuel Allowance?

You may get Fuel Allowance with:

- any payment you get from this Department,  
**or**
- any social security payment from a country covered by EC regulations or a Bilateral Social Security Agreement with Ireland (of which there is an Irish equivalent payment).

Otherwise you will get paid:

- at your local post office by social services card  
**or**
- by direct payment into your account in a financial institution. This account must be a current, deposit or savings account.

## 7. How long does payment last?

Fuel Allowance is paid over each winter period, as long as you still qualify for it.

## 8. When should I apply?

If you are getting a qualifying payment listed on pages 3 and 4 and you think you are eligible, apply **immediately**.

**The Fuel Allowance will not be backdated if you apply after the start of the fuel season in October.**

## 9. How do I apply?

You can get an application form, **NFS1**, from any post office, your local Social Welfare Office or by text request (see page 12).

If you are getting a payment from the Department of Social Protection and you have not already received an application form, complete and send form **NFS1** to the appropriate Section, as listed below and on page 9.

<b>If you are getting</b>	<b>Send your completed form to:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Invalidity Pension</li> <li>— Disability Allowance</li> <li>— Incapacity Supplement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social Welfare Services Ballinalee Road Longford Tel: (043) 3340000 LoCall: 1890 927 770 (from Republic of Ireland only)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Jobseeker's Allowance (for more than 15 months)</li> <li>— Farm Assist</li> </ul>	<p><b>Your Local Intreo Centre or your Local Social Welfare Office</b></p>

<p><b>If you are getting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Widow’s, Widower’s or Surviving Civil Partner’s (Contributory or Non-Contributory) Pension</li> <li>— Deserted Wife’s Benefit or Allowance</li> <li>— State Pension (Contributory) or (Non-Contributory)</li> <li>— Blind Pension</li> <li>— One-Parent Family Payment</li> <li>— Guardian’s Payment (Contributory or Non-Contributory)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Apply at:</b></p> <p><b>Social Welfare Services College Road Sligo</b></p> <p><b>Tel: (071) 91 57100</b> <b>LoCall: 1890 500 000</b> <b>(from Republic of Ireland)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (after 15 months)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Your Local Department of Social Protection representative administering Supplementary Welfare Allowance</b></p>

If you are getting a **social security payment** from a country covered by EC Regulations or a Bilateral Social Security Agreement with Ireland or if you are aged over 66 and not in receipt of a qualifying payment, complete application form **NFS1** and send it to:

**Fuel Allowance Scheme Section**

Social Welfare Services  
College Road  
Sligo

Tel: (071) 91 57100

LoCall: 1890 500 000 (from Republic of Ireland only).

**Important:** If you are getting a payment from another country and you are living with a person getting an Irish social welfare payment who is also eligible for the Fuel Allowance, the person getting the Irish social welfare payment should apply.

## 10. If more than one person in my household qualifies for Fuel Allowance, who should apply?

**Only one person in any household may get Fuel Allowance, no matter how many people in the household qualify for it.**

Check the table on page 11 to see which member of the household should apply for Fuel Allowance.

## 11. Where can I get more information?

For more information about Fuel Allowance, contact the appropriate section or office of the Department listed on pages 8 and 9.

For information booklets, application forms and more information on social welfare services:

- Log on to **www.welfare.ie**.
- Text to **51909** (see details on page 12).
- Telephone: (071) 919 3302  
LoCall Information Line at **1890 66 22 44**  
If you are calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call +353 71 91 93302.
- Drop in to your local Citizens Information Centre, your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office.

### Note

**The rates charged for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.**

Payments to household	Who should apply?
Jobseeker's Allowance (more than 15 months) <b>and</b> any other social welfare payments	Person getting social welfare payments
Social welfare payment <b>and</b> social security payment from another country	Person getting social welfare payment
Social security payment from another country <b>and</b> person getting Jobseeker's Allowance (for more than 15 months)	Person getting social security payment

To request forms, text the form code followed by your name and address to 51909 (from the Republic of Ireland only). Standard text rates apply.

For example, if you wanted to request the Carer's Allowance form, text FORM CARA MARY MURPHY 1 NEW STREET, OLD TOWN, CO. DONEGAL.

<b>Social welfare payment or scheme</b>	<b>Form code</b>
<b>Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance</b>	<b>FORM BTSCFA</b>
<b>Carer's Allowance</b>	<b>FORM CARA</b>
<b>Carer's Benefit</b>	<b>FORM CARB</b>
<b>Carer's Support Grant</b>	<b>FORM CSG</b>
<b>Child Benefit (Form CB1)</b>	<b>FORM CHILD</b>
<b>Disability Allowance</b>	<b>FORM DA</b>
<b>Domiciliary Care Allowance</b>	<b>FORM DCA</b>
<b>Family Income Supplement</b>	<b>FORM FIS</b>
<b>Free Travel</b>	<b>FORM TRAVEL</b>
<b>Fuel Allowance</b>	<b>FORM FUEL</b>
<b>Household Benefits</b>	<b>FORM HHB</b>
<b>Invalidity Pension</b>	<b>FORM INV</b>
<b>Living Alone Increase</b>	<b>FORM LAA</b>
<b>Maternity Benefit</b>	<b>FORM MAT</b>
<b>One Parent Family Payment</b>	<b>FORM OPFP</b>
<b>State Pension (Non-Contributory)</b>	<b>FORM SPNC</b>
<b>State Pension (Contributory)</b>	<b>FORM SPC</b>
<b>Widow(er)'s/Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension</b>	<b>FORM WCP</b>
<b>Widow(er)'s/Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension</b>	<b>FORM WNCP</b>