

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

This is a payment from the Department of Social Protection under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme, aimed at supporting families with the cost of school uniforms and footwear.

In order to be considered eligible for the payment there are a number of conditions.

- A parent or guardian must be in receipt of a social welfare payment or certain payments for training, education or employment schemes. This may include, for example, Community Employment schemes, Jobs Initiative, JobBridge, Tús, FAS training schemes, (you may be assessed under the standard means test if you were in receipt of a social welfare payment before going on to one of these schemes or if you do not qualify under this you may be re-assessed to find out if you can retain it as a secondary benefit under the different back to work schemes). If you are on Back to Education Allowance or VTOS you will be assessed using the standard rules and your gross income must be below the limits listed.
- Children must be aged between 4 and 17 (by the 30th September 2017) and in full-time education at a recognised school or college. Those aged between 18 and 22 must be in full time second level education.
- Your household income must be below a certain amount for your household size.

The income limits for a lone parent are set according to the number of children in the family. Household income is assessed as your main social welfare payment or HSE payment and income from work (before tax but less PRSI and €20 travel costs), maintenance, savings and investments, plus the income of a qualified child attending Youthreach. Family Income Supplement is not counted in the income limit and neither is Rent Supplement, Mortgage Interest Supplement, Domiciliary Care Allowance nor the Student Grant Scheme, Blind Welfare Allowance or Mobility Allowance.

It is a means tested payment so there are income limits that apply:

Lone parent with	Income limit in 2017
1 child	€418.10
2 children	€447.90
3 children	€477.70
4 children	€507.50

8 Coke Lane, Dublin 7
Tel: 01 662 9212
Email: info@onefamily.ie
www.onefamily.ie



In 2017, the rate of payment will be €125 per child aged 4 – 11 and for children aged 12 -17 it is €250.

If a child is aged 18 – 22, for whom an Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC) is being paid and who is in full time second-level education, the amount paid is the higher rate of €250.

The scheme operates from the 1st June to the 30th September.

Contact details:

Social Welfare Services
Department of Social Protection
College Road
Sligo

Lo call: 1890 66 22 44

To request an application form text “Form BTSCFA” followed by your name and address to 51909.

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