

## Back to Work Family Dividend

The Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD) is a payment which will offer financial support to jobseekers with children and One Parent Family Payment recipients who **end their social welfare claim** to start a job, increase their hours at work or start self employment.

### The following people will be eligible for BTWFD:

- A jobseeker who has been receiving Jobseekers Allowance (JA) or Jobseekers Benefit (JB) for 312 days who leave their payment to take up employment, self employment or increase their hours at work. At least 156 days must have occurred in the previous 12 months before starting on the BTWFD. Time spent on education/training and employment programmes can count towards this requirement
- One Parent Family Payment (OFP) recipients who leave their payment to take up employment, self employment or increase their hours at work. You do not have to be on the payment for any length of time to receive the BTWFD
- Jobseekers Transition (JST) recipients who leave their payment to take up employment, self employment or increase their hours at work. You do not have to be on the payment for any length of time to receive the BTWFD
- In all cases above, immediately before starting on BTWFD you must be in receipt of an increase for a qualified child
- You do not have to re establish eligibility for JA, JB, OFP or JST if you have been on an education, training or employment programme. You can move straight from these programmes onto BTWFD.

### Payment

- If you are eligible for the BTWFD you will receive an allowance equivalent to your previous child payment when moving from welfare into work
- The child rate of €29.80 for each child will be payable weekly up to a cap of four children (€119.20 per week)
- The BTWFD will be paid for *two years* after you start work. In the first year you will receive 100% of your previous child payment and in year 2, you will receive 50% , i.e. €14.90 per child per week

- You can receive the BTWFD and Family Income Supplement (FIS) at the same time. BTWFD will not be included in the FIS means test
- It is anticipated that BTWFD will also be excluded from the means test for housing supports such as Rent Supplement and the new Housing Assistance Payment
- You must use up your two year entitlement for BTWFD within three years. If you lose your job you can re-enter the scheme twice only within those three years
- The BTWFD will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer only into a nominated bank account

### **Exclusions**

- To be eligible for BTWFD, all members of a family unit must leave the social welfare system (excluding Child Benefit and FIS). For example; if you have a child on another payment such as Disability Allowance you cannot receive the BTWFD
- If you are receiving Disability Allowance or Carers Allowance you will not be eligible for the BTWFD

### **How to apply?**

- You can apply for the BTWFD from the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2015. You must end your social welfare claim after this date to be eligible for the payment
- Application forms are on [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) and from your local social welfare office or Intreo centre
- You can make an application for BTWFD up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. After this time, no new applications will be processed.

### **One Parent Family Payment (OFP) and BTWFD**

- If you are receiving the One Parent Family Payment (OFP) and Family Income Supplement (FIS) and you are due to lose your OFP due to age of your youngest child you will be entitled to receive the BTWFD
- Your FIS rate will be increased to account for 60% of your lost OFP and the BTWFD will also be paid to further support you to stay in work

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- You do not have to be eligible for FIS to receive the BTWFD payment
- Anyone who is receiving the OFP and currently in work can receive the BTWFD provided they come off their OFP and close that claim

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