

# SOCIAL WELFARE

---

*The Department of Social Protection is responsible for the social welfare system. Details of different services & contact details for local offices can be found on [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)*

## IMPORTANT TIPS:

**Register for a PPS number- at 20 King's Inns Street,D1**

**PPS registration office by county, please [click](#).**

**You must have a valid immigration status to be eligible for a social welfare payment. Students are not eligible.**

## Information on Social Welfare in Ireland

### 1. TWO KINDS OF SCHEME

- 1) **Social Insurance (Contributory):** Available to those who have previously paid sufficient PRSI ('Pay Related Social Insurance). Social security contributions paid in EU states can be used for claims. These types of payments are usually called 'benefits'.
- 2) **Social Assistance (Non-Contributory):** Available to people on a low income who do not have enough PRSI contributions to qualify for contributory payments. You will be means-tested.  
For more information, see: [Department of Social Protection](#)

### 2. HABITUAL RESIDENCE CONDITION

- In order to qualify for many social welfare payments, you must satisfy the 'Habitual Residence Condition'. Details [here](#)

### 3. SOCIAL WELFARE ALLOWANCE

- You may be eligible for supplementary welfare allowance if you are not entitled to any other social welfare payment and you do not have enough money to take care of yourself. You must pass a means test, and have an employment history in Ireland.

### 4. EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS PAYMENTS

- This is a once off payment towards unforeseen expenses that cannot reasonably be met from within weekly income such as: Clothing, Travel Expenses (to clinic), and Rent Deposits etc. These payments are distributed by Community Welfare offices through Health Centres. For more information on social welfare allowance and these payments and how to apply see [Department of Social Protection](#) or [Living in Ireland](#)

### 5. APPEALS

- If you disagree with the decision of the Deciding Officer of the Social Welfare Services concerning your entitlements, you have the right to appeal to the Social Welfare Appeals

Office. The Appeals Office operates independently of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare statutory entitlements. It also deals with appeals by persons dissatisfied with certain decisions made by Health Boards in relation to Supplementary Welfare Allowance. If you are unhappy with a decision you can contact the Appeals Office on:

LoCall 1890 74 74 34

## 6. HOMELESSNESS

- If you are homeless, you should contact your local authority for advice and information on accessing emergency accommodation. If you are in Dublin, you can also contact Freephone 1800 724 724 from 10am-1pm 7 days a week, year-round. or more information on different homeless services in Dublin see Crosscare Map of Homeless Services <http://www.centrecare.ie/>
- Homeless Non-Irish People: Asylum Seekers and New Communities: Unit Homeless Person Unit Dublin (ASCNU) is the unit responsible for the delivery of a range of welfare services to homeless non-Irish persons within the Dublin area. ASCNU contact details are:

*Homeless Persons Unit*

77 Gardiner Street Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 858 5100

Opening hours: 10am - 11.30am & 2pm - 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The ASCNU remit includes:

- Assessment of homeless status and placement into appropriate emergency accommodation on behalf of the local authorities
- Identifying and facilitating move-on options
- Ensuring payment of state entitlements and access to medical services

### ***Important Contacts:***

---

#### **Crosscare Housing & Welfare Information**

Telephone: 0 1-8726775 01-8726775

E-mail: [housingandwelfare@crosscare.ie](mailto:housingandwelfare@crosscare.ie)

Website: [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie)

#### **Cairde**

##### **City Centre Office**

The office is open from 10am to 5pm from Monday to Friday apart from Wednesdays - 2pm to 5pm.

[19 Belvedere Place, Dublin 1, Ireland.](#)

Ph: 01 855 2111

Fax: 01 855 2089

#### **Balbriggan Office:**

The office is open from 10am to 5pm from Monday to Thursday.

[Old St. Georges School, Hampton St., Balbriggan](#)

Ph. 01 8020785

email: [cairdebalbriggan@gmail.com](mailto:cairdebalbriggan@gmail.com)

#### **Respond**

Telephone: **0818357901**

Email: [info@respond.ie](mailto:info@respond.ie)

Website: [www.respond.ie](http://www.respond.ie)

#### **Focus Ireland**

9/12 High Street

Christchurch

Dublin 8

Telephone: 01 8815900 01 8815900

Website: [www.focusireland.ie](http://www.focusireland.ie)

#### **Threshold**

21 Stoneybatter

Dublin 7

[www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)

**Disclaimer:** These materials have been prepared by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) for information purposes only with no guarantee as to accuracy or applicability to a particular set of circumstances. The materials are not intended and should not be considered to be legal advice. The information given may change from time to time and may be out of date. The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland disclaims any legal responsibility for the content or the accuracy of the information provided.