



"Nasc" is the Irish word for **"Link"**

Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre is a non-Governmental organization that seeks to respond to the needs of immigrants in the area of Cork, Ireland.

Our Vision: To contribute to an environment of social inclusion for all communities, based on the principles of equality, social justice and human rights.

Mission: Nasc is a source of support and self-development for migrants, individually and collectively, and uses its experiences to promote fair, consistent and transparent policies.

There are three parts to our work:

- One to one Advice & Advocacy
- Group capacity building
- Policy & Campaigning

This information leaflet was produced by Nasc and funded by Citizens Information Board.



Disclaimer: The contents of this leaflet are intended for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal advice. Nasc does not accept liability for the use or misuse of the information contained in this leaflet. Thank you for your co-operation.

Social Welfare & Supplementary Welfare

Social Welfare is a service offered by the Department of Social and Family Affairs which provides income support payments.

Supplementary Welfare Allowance is administered by the Health Service Executive.

Ireland's social welfare system has four main types of income support:

Categories:

- **Social Insurance Payments:**

Social insurance payments are given to people who satisfy specific Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) conditions and are calculated on the basis of stamps paid while in employment.

- **Means Tested Payments:** The Department of Social and Family Affairs will examine all of your sources of income and if they fall below a certain level you may qualify for assistance.

- **Universal Payments:**

These payments are made regardless of a person's income or social insurance record. To receive this payment a claimant must satisfy a specific personal circumstance, i.e. dependent child.

Social Welfare Unemployment Payments:

There are two main welfare payments offered: Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) and Jobseeker's Allowance (JA).

To qualify for either you must be:

- Satisfy the Habitual Residency Condition
- Aged 16+ (JB) or 18+ (JA)
- Unemployed at least 3 days of any consecutive 6 days.
- Available, Capable and genuinely seeking full-time work.

- **Jobseeker's Allowance (JA):**

JA is a means tested payment paid on the basis that you are unemployed and meet the criteria above. To qualify you must prove that your means are below the maximum rate of unemployment assistance for your family.

- **Jobseeker's Benefit (JB):**

JB is a social insurance payment normally paid if you have enough paid or credited PRSI contributions and your payments meet qualifying criteria.

Other Social Welfare Payments:

- **Child Benefit:** This benefit is paid every month for each child normally living with and supported by you. To qualify children must be under 16 or 16-18 but in full time education or FAS YOUTHREACH.
- **Disability Allowance:** the weekly allowance is paid to persons who are unable to access employment due to a disability.
- **Family Income Supplement:** a weekly tax free payment available to employed couples who receive low pay and have children
- **Maternity Benefit:** This payment is for employed and self-employed women. If you qualify for Maternity Benefit you are covered before the first day of your maternity leave until 16 weeks of the end of the week in which your baby is due.
- **Carer's Allowance:** This payment is for carers on low incomes who live with and look after certain people in need of full-time care and attention.

Supplementary Welfare Allowance Payments

- **Rent Allowance:**

Persons receiving Social Welfare payments and living in private rented accommodation may qualify for a rent allowance payment

- **Exceptional Needs Payment:**

This is a once-off payment made to meet exceptional or out of the ordinary needs.

- **Urgent Needs Payment:**

This payment may be available to persons who are at risk of suffering from severe hardship

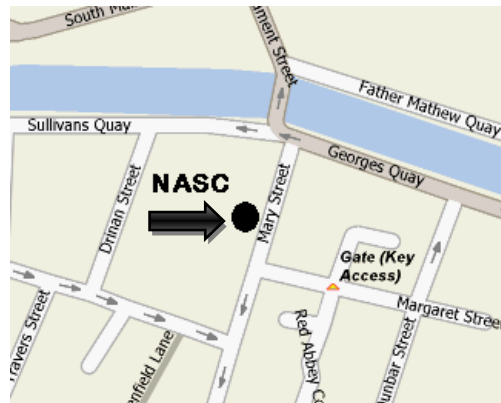
- **Heating Needs and Special Dietary Needs Supplements:**

This means tested payment is available to persons who require a special diet or a well heated house as a result of ill health or due to a medical condition. Letters from a dietician and consultant will be required when applying for this payment.

- **Back to School Clothing and Footwear Scheme:**

This payment is available to parents or guardians who are receiving certain social welfare payments and whose household income is below a certain amount

It is advisable to contact your local Community Welfare Officer for application forms and further information on Supplementary Welfare Allowance payments. Or visit the Department of Social and Family Affairs website at www.welfare.ie for further details.



CONTACT US:

Nasc
Enterprise House
35 Mary Street
Cork, Ireland
Tel: +353 21 4317411
Email: info@nascireland.org
Internet: www.nascireland.org

You can visit or phone our drop-in service at the following times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.00 am to 1:00 pm

2:00 pm to 4.30 pm