

BUDGET 2025

EASING THE COST OF LIVING

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Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

BUDGET 2025 AT A GLANCE



Fianna Fáil delivers a budget that will support you and your family with cost of living pressures, delivering sustained action on issues such as housing, health and our economy, all the while protecting Ireland's future.

Rent tax credit increased to €1,000



Fianna Fáil in Government introduced the Rent Tax Credit, providing vital support to renters across the country. This will be **increased** for the **second time** from **€750 to €1,000 per year**.

2 x €125 Energy Credits



We are aware that energy bills remain high for households right across the country. That's why in Budget 2025 we want to ease this financial pressure with a further **two energy credits of €125 one before and one after Christmas**.

Cuts to USC



Fianna Fáil in Government is making more **cuts to USC**. The 4% rate is being **cut to 3%** - the largest ever reduction in the USC rates.

For further information on Budget 2025 visit: fiannafail.ie/budget2025 or scan here:



€12 weekly increases in pension and core welfare rates



Fianna Fáil in Government has championed incremental increases to the State pension and **prioritised the well-being of older people** and the most vulnerable. This continues in Budget 2025 through measures that include a **€12 rise in all weekly social protection payments**.

Free schoolbooks



The groundbreaking **free schoolbooks scheme** first introduced by Fianna Fáil is now expanding to include Senior Cycle students, meaning every student in **first and second level education** now receives **free schoolbooks**. This represents a **saving of up €740** for students and families.

Higher rate of income tax threshold raised



Budget 2025 will deliver better outcomes for those who need it most. The threshold for paying the higher rate of tax will be **raised by €2,000 to €44,000**.

Childcare fees reduced by €1,100



Funding for the **National Childcare Scheme** will **increase by 44%**, meaning parents will see full-time childcare costs reduce even further by an **additional €1,100** in 2025.

1,000 new Garda recruits



We increased funding for the recruitment of a further **1,000 Gardaí** and up to **130** Garda civilian staff next year.

Inheritance tax threshold increased



Budget 2025 will see the inheritance tax threshold **increase** from **€335,000 to €400,000** for children, with further changes for siblings and relatives.

Free public transport for under 9s



Fianna Fáil is committed to promoting public transport use wherever possible. That is why we have extended free public transport in Budget 2025 to all children under the age of 9 and retained the **20% reduction in transport fares** for adults, and **50% for young people** ages **between 18 and 25**.

Free HRT saving women up to €840 annually



Fianna Fáil has led a revolution in women's healthcare over the past four years, and in Budget 2025, we are taking further steps by providing **free Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)**. This initiative will save women between **€360 and €840 annually**, significantly easing this financial burden.

Housing



- Help to Buy Scheme **extended to 2029**
- €1.25bn for the **Land Development Agency**, bringing total funding to €6.25bn to deliver thousands of more affordable homes
- €160m for **First Home Scheme** to support purchase of some **2,000 homes**
- €2 billion available in 2025 to deliver **10,000 new build social homes**

Education



- Funding for 1,600 more **SNAs** and 768 additional **Special Education teachers**
- **Extension of the hot school meals programme** to all primary schools in 2025
- Introduction of a new school meals **holiday hunger pilot project**
- Funding for schools to **ban smartphones** during the school day

Supporting vibrant communities



- Approximately €380m to **arts and culture**
- €231m to **sports clubs and organisations** in every corner of the country
- €13m to help integrate migrants from **Ukraine** into local communities
- Additional €25m to the **Community Recognition Fund** for upgrades to sports facilities, community centres, parks, walking trails and playgrounds

Building safer communities



- €5m to be provided for **Public Order Units** including two new water cannons, crowd control barriers, expansion of the dog unit and more body armour for **frontline Gardaí**.
- Funding for the recruitment of a further **1,000 Gardaí** and up to **150 Garda civilian staff** next year
- €7m for organisations providing supports to victims of **domestic, sexual and gender-based violence**
- 400 additional staff to **expedite asylum claims**

Increased support for Defence Forces



- Funding for the recruitment, training and support of an additional **400 military personnel**
- Extending the **Sea-going Naval Personnel Tax Credit** for five years, to the end of 2029
- Highest ever allocation to **Overseas Development Assistance**

Another Record Cost of Living Package of €2.2bn



- **€250** in once-off energy credits for every household. Two credits of €125 each will be paid before and after Christmas.
- **Two double Child Benefit payments** totalling €280 each per child to be paid in November and December for 1.2 million children in 650,000 families.
- **Two double payments** for all welfare recipients, to be paid in October and before Christmas.
- **€400 lump sum** for recipients of the Working Family Payment before Christmas.
- **€400 lump sum** to recipients of the Carer's Support Grant, Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, Invalidity Pension, Domiciliary Care Allowance before Christmas. This will benefit 350,000 people.
- **€300 Fuel Allowance** lump sum payment for 400,000 people before Christmas.
- **€200 Living Alone Allowance** lump sum payment for 245,000 people before Christmas.
- **€100 once-off payment** for those in receipt of the Qualified Child Increase.
- **New Born Baby Grant** of €280 in addition to first month of Child Benefit.
- **Free Travel Companion Pass** for all over 70s
- **Double payment** of the Foster Care Allowance.
- **Free travel** for all children under the age of 9.
- **Extension of the free school books scheme** to Senior Cycle students, saving families over €300 per student in 5th and 6th year, and up to €440 for those completing 4th, 5th, and 6th year, benefiting approx. 200,000 students.
- **€4,000 grant** for businesses with commercial rate bills of less than €30,000 to help them deal with energy costs this winter.
- **€15 increase** in Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Parent's Benefit from January 2025

Agriculture



- €100/hectare payment for all **tillage** and field grown crops
- €25/calf additional payment under the **National Beef Welfare Scheme** increasing payment per calf to **€75** (bringing total payment per cow & calf to **€225**)
- €5/ewe **additional payment** under the **National Sheep Welfare Scheme** increasing payment per ewe to **€13** (bringing total scheme payment to **€25/ewe**).
- €20/calf extra for **Dairy Beef Scheme**, a doubling of the payment to **€40/calf**

Health



- **Increased** access to **IVF**
- **Free HRT**, providing savings of between €360 and €840 a year
- **2 new surgical hubs** in Galway and Swords
- **335** new hospital beds and **160** community beds
- Fully funded **the National Cancer Strategy**

Supports for higher education



- Fees for **university students** cut by €1,000
- Once-off reduction of 33% in the **contribution fee for apprentices**
- €78m to support the continued growth of the **craft apprenticeships** system to 6,800 apprentice registrations
- Increase in the **Post Graduate Tuition fee** contribution by **€1,000** for student grant recipients
- Increased funding for the **Student Assistance Fund**

Disability Services



- Development of new Autism Innovation Fund
- Further Expansion of Personal Assistance Hours

Carers



- Carer's Allowance is now a qualifying payment for the **Fuel Allowance**
- **Income disregards** for CA will **increase** to €625 for a single person/€1,250 for a couple from July 2025.
- Increase in the **Carer's Support Grant** to **€2,000**
- Carer's Benefit extended to the self-employed

Business



- **New Power Up Grant of €4,000** for retail and hospitality businesses
- **Increase** in the annual **Small Benefit Exemption** to €1,500 and five non-cash benefits by an employer in a single year under

**WORKING FAMILY 2 CHILDREN,
1 CHILD WITH A DISABILITY**
EARNING €90,000



- Extra €1,595 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- Double child benefit €560 (Nov & Dec)
- One-off Carer's Support Grant €400
- **Total savings €2,805 (approx.)**

SINGLE WORKER (RENTING)
EARNING €50,000



- Extra €859 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent tax credit top up 2024 €250
- Rent tax credit 2025 €1,000
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- **Total savings €2,359 (approx.)**

LONE PARENT 1 CHILD
EARNING €60,000



- Extra €1,099 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- Double child benefit €280 (Nov & Dec)
- **Total savings €1,629 (approx.)**

**SINGLE WORKER ON MINIMUM
WAGE (RENTING)**
EARNING MINIMUM WAGE



- Extra €1,424 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent tax credit top up 2024 €250
- Rent tax credit 2025 €1,000
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- **Total savings €2,924 (approx.)**

WORKING FAMILY 2 CHILDREN
EARNING €54,000



- Extra €805 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- Double child benefit €560 (Nov & Dec)
- **Total savings €1,615 (approx.)**

PENSIONER
OCCUPATIONAL PENSION €20,000
STATE PENSION €15,044



- Extra €749 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts, State pension increase)
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- Living alone allowance lump sum €200
- Additional weekly pension payment €554.6 (Nov & Dec)
- **Total savings €1,754 (approx.)**

WORKING FAMILY 3 CHILDREN
EARNING €50,000



- Extra €2,138 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Working family payment lump sum €400 (Nov)
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- Double child benefit €840 (Nov & Dec)
- **Total savings €3,628 (approx.)**

SINGLE WORKER (NOT RENTING)
EARNING €65,000



- Extra €1,244 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Electricity credits of €250 (Nov/Dec & Jan/Feb)
- **Total savings €1,494 (approx.)**

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