



Family Supports & Entitlements

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)

Dyspraxia/DCD is regarded as a lifelong disability, so you are entitled to apply for Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA), which is a monthly payment, for your child once they have received an official diagnosis.

It is common for first applications for DCA to be refused (94%). We recommend that you keep a daily care diary over a few days outlining everything that happens during the day and night related to your child's needs, including every detail you need to assist your child with and send a copy of this in with your application. It is important to include every small detail.

It is also advisable to include a family impact statement i.e. how your child's diagnosis impacts on your family as a whole. Unfortunately, the process is very deficit-based and can be upsetting for parents. If you find that you are struggling with the process, please get back in touch with us and we can send you some information on our counselling services.

Submit reports and any supporting letters/documentation you have from anyone who provides support to your child.

You should explain clearly what the money will be used for e.g. respite, glasses, therapy, etc.

If your application is refused you have 21 days to submit an appeal, but you can request additional time in writing.

It is advisable to request both a review and an appeal,



What is Domiciliary Care Allowance?

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is a monthly payment for a child under 16 years of age with a severe disability. The child must require ongoing care and attention, substantially over and above what is usually needed by a child of the same age.

Eligibility for Domiciliary Care Allowance is based on the level of care and attention the child needs as a result of their disability or illness. It is not based on the type of disability or illness the child has.

How do I qualify?

To qualify for Domiciliary Care Allowance, the child must:

- be under 16 years of age.
- be resident in Ireland.
- have a severe disability that is likely to impact them for at least 12 months.
- need ongoing care and attention substantially more than what is usually required by a child of the same age.
- live with the person claiming Domiciliary Care Allowance for at least 5 days a week.

There are some exceptions. For example, if the child's parents are living apart or if the child attends residential care part-time.

which will run in tandem, and new information can be submitted at this stage to support your review and/or appeal.

You can request an oral appeal (by phone or zoom) and can have support with you at oral appeals who can talk on your behalf.

Gareth Noble is a solicitor who works with DCA warriors (Facebook group) and has represented many people who are appealing decisions if there is a second and third refusal. DCA warriors is a great source of information and is open to all parents of children with a disability.

More details: [Domiciliary Care Allowance](#)

Following a successful DCA application, other potential available entitlements include:

Medical card



If your application for DCA is approved the child for whom you receive DCA will automatically be entitled to a medical card.

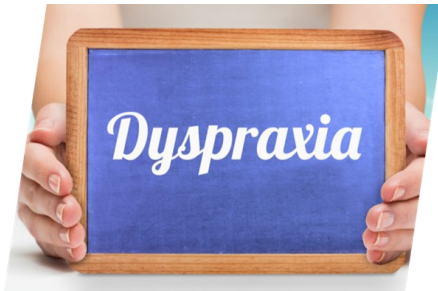
You will need to apply directly to the HSE here: [Medical card for Domiciliary Care Allowance - HSE.ie](#)

Carer's Allowance

If you are receiving DCA you can apply for Carer's Allowance if you meet a number of criteria. Carer's Allowance is a weekly payment.

To qualify for Carer's Allowance in respect of a child under 16 you must be receiving DCA and not be employed, self-employed, doing voluntary work, training, or any education courses for more than 18.5 hours a week. You must also pass a means test.

If you care for 2 or more people, your rate of Carer's Allowance is increased by 50% (maximum) each week.



If you qualify for Carer's Allowance you may also qualify for other benefits including: **household benefits package** (free electricity or gas units and free TV licence), the **free travel pass** and the **Carer's Support Grant**. However

these must be applied for separately and other qualifying criteria may apply.

If you are already receiving DCA then you do not need to fill out the medical part of the application form for Carer's Allowance in respect of your child.

If you are in receipt of Carer's Allowance, you are entitled to a GP visit card. Again this must be applied for directly to the HSE.

Further information on Carer's Allowance and the means test is available here: [Carer's Allowance](#)

Carer's Benefit

Carer's Benefit is a weekly payment available to people who meet certain PRSI requirements and who need to leave work or reduce their hours to care for a person or people in need of full-time care.

It can be paid for a period of 2 years (104 weeks) for each person being cared for and may be claimed over separate periods up to a total of 2 years (104 weeks).

To qualify you must: be caring for a person who needs full-time care; have been employed for at least 8 weeks in the previous 26 week period for at least 16 hours per week or 32 hours per fortnight; not take part in employment, self-employment, voluntary work, training or education courses which add up to more than 18.5 hours a week; earn €625 or less a week after taxes and meet certain PRSI requirements.

If you are already receiving DCA then you do not need to fill out the medical part of the application form for Carer's Benefit in respect of your child.

If you are in receipt of Carer's Benefit you are entitled to a GP visit card, which must be applied for to the HSE.

More information: [Carer's Benefit](#)

Carer's Support Grant

The Carer's Support Grant is paid automatically to anyone receiving Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit or Domiciliary Care Allowance.

If you do not receive one of the qualifying payments above, you can still qualify for the Carer's Support Grant if you are: caring for the person for at least 6 months (this 6-month period must include the first Thursday in June) and be living with the person being cared for.

The Carer's Support Grant is not a means-tested payment. If you are caring for more than one person, a grant is paid for *each* person you care for.

Further details on qualifying for the payment can be found here: [Carer's Support Grant](#)

Warmer Homes Scheme

If you receive DCA or Carer's Allowance (and live with the person you are caring for) and you own and live in your home, which was built before 2006, you are eligible to apply for the Warmer Homes Scheme (if you have not already had work done under this scheme).

The scheme provides for energy upgrades to help improve the energy efficiency and warmth of your home.

The scheme covers: attic insulation, wall insulation, draught-proofing, lagging jackets, energy efficient lighting and energy advice.

More details are available here: [Free energy upgrades \(Warmer Homes Scheme\)](#)

Disability Allowance

Domiciliary Care Allowance stops when your child reaches 16, so a few months prior to their 16th birthday you should consider applying for Disability Allowance for your child. They are not automatically entitled to DA because you were in receipt of DCA.

This is a means tested payment which assesses the means of the child and your income is not taken into account.

More information: [Disability Allowance](#)

Tax Credits

Medical expenses

Tax relief can be claimed on the cost of certain medical expenses, including: GP and consultant visits, physiotherapy and educational psychological assessments. Further details: [Tax relief on medical expenses](#)

VAT refunds

If your child has a physical or mental disability, you can get a VAT refund on certain aids and appliances that your child will need to help you carry out daily activities. Information is available at: [VAT refunds on aids and appliances for people with disabilities](#)

Home carer tax credits

If you are married or in a civil partnership and you are jointly assessed for tax, you can claim the Home Carer Tax Credit if you are caring for a dependent child for whom Child Benefit is paid.

Incapacitated Child Tax Credit

You can claim this tax credit if you are the parent or guardian of a child who is permanently incapacitated, either physically or mentally.

To qualify for the Incapacitated Child Tax Credit, you must be the parent or guardian of a child who has a physical or mental incapacity that makes it unlikely for them to be able to maintain themselves, even with the benefit of any: treatment, device, medication or therapy.

You can claim a credit for more than one child if more than one child is permanently incapacitated.

The tax credit can be claimed by employees paying PAYE as well as by those who are self-employed.

More information: [Incapacitated Child Tax Credit](#)



Please note that all schemes, supports and entitlements are subject to change so for further information please visit

www.citizensinformation.ie