**Benefits and allowances which you may be eligible to apply for:**

**Note: This list is not exhaustive and is only intended as a general guide. It does not describe all qualifying conditions which can change from time to time**.

**Domiciliary Care Allowance**

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is a monthly payment for a child aged under 16 with a severe disability, who requires ongoing care and attention, substantially over and above the care and attention usually required by a child of the same age. It is not means tested.

Details online on the Dept. of Social Protection: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/1078_Domiciliary-Care-Allowance.aspx>

**Disability Allowance**

If your child is over the age of 16 they may be eligible to apply for Disability Allowance

Disability Allowance is a means-tested payment for people with a specified disability whose income falls below certain limits and who are aged between age 16 and under age 66.

Details online at the Dept. of Social Protection: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Disability-Allowance.aspx#part1>

Further information is also available from your local Social Welfare Office.

**Incapacitated Child Tax Credit**

A tax credit can be claimed where a claimant proves that he or she has living at any time during the tax year any child who is permanently incapacitated either physically or mentally from maintaining himself/herself. A claim form is available online which includes a section for completion by your medical practitioner (GP).

Details online at the Revenue Website: <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/credits/incapacitated-child-credit.html>

Further information is also available from your local Revenue Office.

**Carer’s Leave**

The Carer's Leave Act 2001 allows employees to leave their employment temporarily to provide full-time care for someone in need of full-time care and attention. You are entitled to take carer’s leave of at least 13 weeks up to a maximum of 104 weeks. Carer's leave from employment is unpaid but the Carer’s Leave Act ensures that those who avail of carer's leave will have their jobs kept open for them for the duration of the leave. You may be eligible for Carer's Benefit or Carer's Allowance when you apply for this leave. You can take carer's leave even if you do not qualify for either of these payments.

**Carer’s Allowance**

Carer's Allowance is a payment to people on low incomes who are looking after a person who needs support because of age, disability or illness (including mental illness). In some circumstances you may be eligible for a half rate carer’s allowance

Details and application forms online at: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/ca.aspx>

**Carers Benefit**

Carer's Benefit is a payment made to insured people (PRSI) who leave the workforce to care for a person(s) in need of full-time care and attention.

Details and application forms online at: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/carb.aspx>

**Long Term Illness Card**

If you (or your child) have certain long-term illnesses or disabilities, you (or your child) may apply to join the Long Term Illness Scheme. If granted you will be supplied with a Long Term Illness book. This book allows you to get drugs, medicines, and medical and surgical appliances directly related to the treatment of your (or your child’s) illness, free of charge. It does not depend on your income or other circumstances and is separate from the Medical Card Scheme and the GP Visit Card Scheme.

Details including a list of eligible long-term illnesses (conditions) and application forms online at: <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/lti/>

Further information is also available from your local Social Welfare Office.

**Medical Card**

A medical card issued by the HSE allows the holder to receive certain health services free of charge. Medical cards are granted on the basis of a means test and/or medical need. To qualify for a medical card, your weekly income must be below a certain figure for your family size. Cash income, savings, investments and property (except for your own home) are taken into account in the means test. **GP visit cards:** If you do not qualify for a medical card on income grounds, you may be eligible for a GP visit card.

**GP Visit Card for children under 8**

From 1st July 2015 all children under the age of 8 are entitled to a GP Visit Card

**Medical card Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)** From 1st June 2017 Parents or guardians in receipt of a Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) can now register their child for Medical Card eligibility. This can be done online or by post.

**GP Visit Card for** **Carers**

If you get Carer’s Benefit or Carer’s Allowance, at full or half-rate, you are eligible for a GP visit card.

Further information re Medical cards is available online on HSE website

**Further Information and advice about benefits and entitlements may be obtained from the Citizens Information Board**

The Citizens Information Board is the statutory body which supports the provision of information, advice and advocacy on a broad range of public and social services. It provides the Citizens Information website, www.citizensinformation.ie and supports the voluntary network of Citizens Information Centres and the Citizens Information Phone Service 0818 07 4000. (Mon- Fri 9am to 8pm)

The Citizens information Board produce:

**Guide to entitlements for People with Disabilities** This guide is available at:

<http://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/publications/providers/downloads/Guide_to_entitlements_for_people_with_disabilities_2015.pdf>

**Swords Citizens Information Centre:**

Unit 26, The Plaza, Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67WN23

Ph:0818077510

Email: fingal@citinfo.ie

Open:Mon-Fri 9am -1pm and 2pm-5pm.

They offer drop-in clinics during these times and if you need more support (e.g. form filling or Social Welfare Appeals), they can offer appointments.

**Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)**  The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is the State’s money advice service

**Tel: 0818 07 2000**

**Community Welfare Officer**

can be contacted about emergency or exceptional needs payments.

**Disabled Persons Parking Permit T**he parking card scheme is administered by the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI) and the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA).  IWA: 045 893094/5

**Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability**A Housing Adaptation Grant may be available to make a house suitable for a person with a physical, sensory or intellectual disability or mental health difficulty to live in. This grant is means tested and is administered by your local authority.

**Note: This list and information is not exhaustive and is only intended as a general guide. It does not describe all qualifying conditions which can change from time to time.**

**Swords Children’s disability network Team**

![images[2]]()

**Information for Parents and Carers of Children with a Disability or Complex Needs**

**Benefits and Entitlements**