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better lives for one-parent families

**The Department of Social Protection (D/SP)**, through its 'Intreo' income support, work activation, and employment service, delivers two forms of support for one-parent families:

- financial help through **income support**, and
- help with finding work through **training and employment support**.

### **Income Support**

As a result of the reforms to the One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) scheme, once an OFP recipient's youngest child reaches the relevant threshold age, they will no longer be entitled to the OFP payment. Should they still have an income support need, they will be required to apply for another income support payment from the D/SP.

The following income supports are available:

#### ❖ **Jobseeker's Allowance (JA)**

Recipients who are coming off the OFP payment, and who have a **youngest child aged 14 years or over**, can apply for the JA payment. To get this payment, you must:

- be fully unemployed, or unemployed for at least 4 days out of 7;
- be over 18 and under 66 years of age;
- be capable of work;
- be available for, and genuinely seeking, work;
- satisfy a means test, and
- meet the Habitual Residence Condition.

For further information on the JA scheme, please visit:

[www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/1057\\_Jobseekers-Allowance.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/1057_Jobseekers-Allowance.aspx).

#### ❖ **Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) transitional arrangement**

Recipients who are coming off the OFP payment, and who have a **youngest child aged under 14 years**, can apply for the JA transitional arrangement. To get this payment, you must:

- have been in receipt of the OFP payment within the last 3 years;
- be continuing to parent alone;
- satisfy a means test, and
- meet the Habitual Residence Condition.

Recipients of the JA transitional payment are exempt from certain JA scheme conditions – as follows:

- they do not have to be available for, and genuinely seeking, work, and
- they do not have to prove unemployment and, as such, can work part-time without restrictions and still receive payment (subject to them satisfying the JA scheme means test).

The exemptions from the full JA conditionality will remain in place until the recipient's youngest child reaches 14 years of age. At this point, should they continue to claim the JA payment, they will be subjected to the full JA conditionality.



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For further information on the JA transitional arrangement, please visit:

[www.welfare.ie/en/pressoffice/Pages/pr210513.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/pressoffice/Pages/pr210513.aspx).

If you qualify for either the JA or JA transitional payment, you and your family may also qualify

for other benefits, such as:

- the Rent Supplement;
- the Mortgage Interest Supplement;
- the Fuel Allowance;
- the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance;
- the School Books Grant, and
- the Medical Card.

Recipients of both the JA and JA transitional payments can apply for subsidised child care through the **Community Childcare Subvention (CCS)** programme that is administered by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (D/CYA). The recently launched **After-school Child Care Scheme (ACCS)**, which is jointly managed by the D/SP and the D/CYA, is available to recipients of both the JA and JA transitional payment who have children aged 4 to 13 years who are in primary school. It is also available to OFP recipients who take up employment, and then move out of the OFP scheme, who have children aged 4 to 13 years who are in primary school. Please visit [www.welfare.ie/en/pressoffice/pdf/SW135.pdf](http://www.welfare.ie/en/pressoffice/pdf/SW135.pdf) for further details on the ACCS scheme.

❖ **Family Income Supplement**

Transitioning OFP recipients who are **working 19 hours or more per week** are entitled to apply for the FIS payment, or to have their existing FIS claim re-rated as appropriate.

Recipients of the FIS payment may also qualify for the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance.

These FIS recipients can avail of the subsidised child care schemes that are provided by the D/CYA.

For further information on the FIS scheme, please visit:

[www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Family-Income-Supplement-FIS---SW-22.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Family-Income-Supplement-FIS---SW-22.aspx).

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE:**

If you qualify for income support, the amount of payment that you receive will depend on your:

- income;
- family size;
- housing costs, and
- assets.

If there are changes to any of the above, you must contact your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Local Office as soon as possible.

**In all cases, you can obtain more information and advice about your options from your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Local Office.**



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## **Training and Employment Support**

We know that many one-parent families who receive income support from the D/SP can, and want to, work. A range of training and employment supports are in place to assist lone parents to improve their skill-set, broaden their professional experience, prepare them for the workforce, improve their existing careers and, also, help them to set up their own business.

Everyone's path into employment is different. This underscores the variety of training and employment supports that are presently available through the D/SP. These supports have been devised in order to assist you in any of the following ways:

- help you to prepare for work;
- help you to find a work position that's right for you;
- help you to keep a job;
- provide you with job-coaching;
- provide you with on-the-job training;
- help you to move onto the next level in your career, and
- if setting up your own business, help you to develop and implement a business plan, assist you with marketing your business, train you in money management, record keeping and budgeting, and provide you with financial help towards the costs of business tools, equipment and supplies, licenses and certification.

**You will work with your case officer or community service provider to figure out what kinds of supports you will need to assist you to secure and then keep work or to facilitate your path into self-employment.**

### **❖ Training Supports**

Recipients of both the JA and JA transitional payments can avail of the following training supports:

- the Back-to-Education Allowance (BTEA) scheme  
[www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/353\\_Back-to-Education-Allowance.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/353_Back-to-Education-Allowance.aspx);
- Skillnets  
[www.skillnets.ie](http://www.skillnets.ie);
- Springboard  
[www.springboardcourses.ie](http://www.springboardcourses.ie);
- the ICT Skills Programme  
[www.ictskills.ie](http://www.ictskills.ie);
- FÁS training programmes  
[www.fas.ie](http://www.fas.ie);
- the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)  
[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie), and
- Vocational Education Committee (VEC) programmes  
[www.vec.ie](http://www.vec.ie).

No training supports are available to recipients of the FIS payment.

### **❖ Employment Supports**

Recipients of both the JA and JA transitional payments can avail of the following employment supports:

- JobBridge (the National Internship Programme)  
[www.jobbridge.ie](http://www.jobbridge.ie);



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- the Community Employment (CE) scheme [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Community-Employment-Programme-.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Community-Employment-Programme-.aspx);
- Tús (the Community Work Placement Initiative) [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/T%c3%bas\\_holder.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/T%c3%bas_holder.aspx);
- the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Rural-Social-Scheme.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Rural-Social-Scheme.aspx);
- Job Clubs [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Jobs-Clubs.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Jobs-Clubs.aspx);
- the Local Employment Service (LES) [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Local-Employment-Service.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Local-Employment-Service.aspx);
- the Part-time Job Incentive (PTJI) scheme [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Part-time-Job-Incentive-Scheme-PTJI---SW-69.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Part-time-Job-Incentive-Scheme-PTJI---SW-69.aspx), and
- the Back-to-Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Back-to-Work-Enterprise-Allowance---SW-92.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Back-to-Work-Enterprise-Allowance---SW-92.aspx).

Recipients of the FIS payment can avail of the PTJI scheme **only**.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE:**

Former jobseekers can avail of the following in-work supports once they have entered the workforce:

- **Jobs Plus** – This scheme provides a number of incentives for former jobseekers who have secured full-time employment of 30 or more hours for at least 4 days per week. Please visit [www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Jobs-Plus.aspx](http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Jobs-Plus.aspx) for further details on the Jobs Plus scheme.
- **Medical Card** – Former jobseekers who have secured employment retain their entitlement to the Medical Card for an additional 3 years.

For more information you can contact One Family at the following contact points:



**askonefamily Lo-Call Helpline: 1890 662 212**

**T: 01 662 9212 | E: [info@onefamily.ie](mailto:info@onefamily.ie) | W: [www.onefamily.ie](http://www.onefamily.ie)**

