

Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme

Participation in the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme is restricted to community/not-for-profit childcare services. The CCS Programme supports disadvantaged parents and provides support for parents in low paid employment and training or education by enabling qualifying parents to avail of reduced childcare costs at participating community childcare services. The table below outlines the weekly subvention rates for Band A, AJ or B, based on the type of service the child is availing of. (The list of payments under Band A in the table is not exhaustive. Where clarification is required please contact the City / County Childcare Committee).

There are two changes which are effective from September 2012. The first is a reduction in the higher subvention rate (Band A), from €100 to €95 for 5 days of full daycare (and pro-rata reductions for part-time/sessional/half session places). The second, concerning eligibility, is that a welfare recipient will only get the full rate of subvention if they also qualify for a medical card, and if they don't they will be paid under Band B.

The Subvention bands and rates are as follows:

| Level of Service | Band A (with medical card) | Band AJ (with medical card) | Band B |
|---|---|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One Parent Family Payment ▪ Widows/Widowers Pension ▪ Pre-retirement Allowance ▪ Farm Assist ▪ State Pension ▪ Blind Pension ▪ Guardian's Payment ▪ Illness/Injury Benefit*** ▪ Disability Allowance ▪ Carer's Benefit/ Allowance ▪ Back to Work Enterprise/Education Allowance ▪ Community Employment ▪ Domiciliary Care Allowance ▪ Family Income Supplement (FIS) ▪ Secondary School students ▪ Invalidity Pension ▪ Disablement Pension | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Job Seekers Benefit/ Allowance* ▪ Supplementary Welfare Allowance** ▪ Tús ▪ Part-time Job Incentive Scheme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical Card ▪ GP Visit Card ▪ Parents who are in receipt of Social Welfare payments listed under Band A/AJ but have no medical card ▪ Parents who no longer qualify for Band A/AJ this year but who were verified as being on Band A/AJ at the end of the previous school year |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HSE Referrals (no medical card required) | | |
| Full-Day Payment (5 hrs +) | €95 | €50 | €50 |
| Part-time Payment (3:31-5:00) | €47.50 | €47.50 | €25 |
| Sessional Payment (2:16-3:30) | €31.35 | €31.35 | €17 |
| Half Session Payment (1:15-2:15) | €15.20 | €15.20 | €8.50 |

* parents in receipt of Jobseekers Benefit/Allowance (JB / JA) and with a medical card qualify for subvented childcare to a maximum of €50 subvention per week (Band AJ). Parents in receipt of Jobseekers Benefit/Allowance (JB / JA) and do **not** have a medical card qualify for subvented childcare under Band B.

Those parents partaking in a **Springboard course** and/or a **National Internship Programme (NIP)**, no Band is automatically applied. The appropriate band will be decided on a case by case basis through the appeals process.

** A similar cap applies to Basic Payments under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme, as many of those in receipt of such payments are awaiting a decision on a Jobseekers Benefit/Allowance claim. In the event that this payment concludes with a successful claim which attracts a full rate Band A eligibility, with a medical card (e.g. One Parent Family Payment) then the eligibility for that payment can be back dated to the September of that given academic year for which the basic payment applied. However, the successful claim must be appealed before the deadline set by this Department in the given year.

***Parents on Illness Benefit will be reviewed during the course of the academic year. If the Illness Benefit no longer applies at the review, the band will be amended accordingly.

Please see below some examples of the different Band entitlements:

- a) Parent in receipt of (Family Income Supplement) FIS, parent entitled to Band B subvention rate.
- b) Parent in receipt of One Parent Family & holds a medical card, parent entitled to Band A subvention rate.
- c) Parent in receipt of Tús, parent is entitled to Band B subvention.
- d) Parent in receipt of Job Seekers Benefit, parent is entitled to Band B subvention.
- e) Parent in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance & holds a medical card, parent is entitled to Band AJ subvention.
- f) Parent in receipt of Domiciliary Care & holds a medical card, parent entitled to Band A subvention. However, if the parent does not hold a medical card, but the child does, that child only to receive Band A subvention rate. Any other children of that family receive Band B.