**Examples of Cuts for People with Disabilities since 2008**

**Revenue and Tax Credits**

* Blind Tax Credit, Incapacitated Child Credit, Home Carer Credit cut by 10%.
* Introduction of the Universal Social Charge.
* Rental tax credits reduced by 20%
* VAT increased from 21% to 23% in 2012.
* Household charge of €100 introduced
* Carbon tax on petrol, diesel, oil and gas.

**Income Support**

* Disability Welfare payments cut by €16.30 or 8% since 2010.
* Loss of xmas bonus of €204.30 in 2009
* Child Benefit cut of between €26 - €55 per month depending on family size.
* Fuel allowance Scheme cut by 6 weeks.
* Electricity and National Gas Allowance cut
* Telephone Allowance cut.

**Education Support**

* National Council for Special Education (NCSE) budget cut by €2.3 million or 21% in 2011.
* In 2011, the number of SNA’s was capped.
* In 2011, number of NEPS psychologists restricted to 178 rather than the increase to 210 promised in Budget 2010.
* In 2012, funding for access programme for students with disabilities cut by 20% in universities.
* In 2012, the teacher-pupil ratio allocations increased.

**Health**

* Monthly threshold for the Drugs Payment Scheme increased from €100 to €120 in 2010, and then to €132 in 2012.
* Prescription charge of 50 cent for medical card holder to a monthly ceiling of €10 per family.
* The Dental Treatment Benefit Scheme was limited to one annual oral examination in 2010. Dental treatments for medical card holders have also been restricted.
* The Optical Treatment Benefit Scheme was limited to a free eye exam only; free spectacles or contact lenses are no longer available.

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**Housing**

* Funding for social housing reduced by 36% in 2011.
* The Capital Assistance Scheme, used to house people with disabilities reduced from €145m in 2010 to €75m in 2011.
* Housing Adaptations Grant reduced by 21% from €94m in 2010 to €73m in 2011 and again to €55m in 2012.
* The minimum contribution required of rent supplement recipients increase in 2012.

**Disability Services Funding**

* A 14% drop in annual HSE-funded net expenditure on disability services between 2008 and 2011.
* In addition, research done by DFI found that fundraised income has been severely affected by the economic downturn. Over half of the organisations we sampled sustained an average drop of 17% in their fundraised income2.