



DISABILITY FEDERATION OF IRELAND

No Time to Delay - Disability Rights in Budget 2025

The current programme for government states “Ever since Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we have signalled to those with a disability that we are now serious about making a difference – a difference that will make things better.” This is the last chance for the current government to meet this commitment. To be ambitious about addressing inequalities and to implement meaningful and positive change.

1 in 5 people in Ireland have a long-lasting condition, difficulty or disability to some extent. While some progress is being made, for example with the transfer of departmental disability functions, publication of The Disability Action Plan, forthcoming National Disability Strategy etc., the experience of too many disabled people continues to be one of **financial precarity** and **social exclusion**.

Change is possible. Positive reform that addresses the structural barriers and lack of universal design in society, as well as income inadequacy, is urgently needed. Our government can make different choices and prioritise disability in Budget 2025.

Key facts



Ireland ranks 22nd of the EU 27 for disability poverty.



One in two disabled people unable to work live in deprivation.



1,228 people with disabilities under the age of 65 are living in nursing homes.



Number of disabled people on the social housing waiting list reduced by just 12% compared to 33% overall.



12% of people who experienced a condition or difficulty to a great extent reported very good health, compared to 53% of the general population.



Specialist community based disability services are delivered to approximately 7% of those with a disability.



Almost 70% of disability services are provided by the voluntary sector.



Disabled people live with extra Cost of Disability €10,397–€15,177, based on recent inflation. Disability Allowance in 2024 is €12,064.



More than 1 in 3 people unable to work due to long-standing health problems report low life satisfaction, compared to 1 in 10 national average.



15,000 children waiting for an initial contact from their Children’s Disability Network Team, with two thirds of those waiting for over 12 months.



For Budget 2025, the Disability Federation of Ireland calls for investment to support disabled people and their critical supports and services. This requires cross-departmental action and delivery. There is no excuse to leave disability on the backburner. There is no more time for this government to delay.



For sustainable health and social care services

Provide funding to deliver the Action Plan for Disability Services 2024-2026



To tackle poverty, cost of disability and employment

Introduce a recurring Cost of Disability payment of €2,600 a year, or €50 a week



To ensure community inclusion and participation

Develop a new programme to create disability inclusive communities, similar to the current Age Friendly programme. Cost: €7 million



Deliver housing for all, with accessible, universally designed housing and supports.

Provide funding to implement the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

Resource the community and voluntary sector with a reformed, sustainable multi-annual funding stream and pay parity



Under each of the above priority areas DFI has additional of specific recommendations. Read our full Pre-Budget Submission [here](#)

Transparency of Budget Announcement

Past national budget announcements have been unclear about the impact of measures on critical services. Disability specific community supports in particular lack transparency and clarity on figures. For example, what funding is allocated for existing services and what is additional to provide for current unmet need.

