



Budget 2026

**From promises to progress:
Deliver the step change for
people with disabilities**

Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI calls on the Government to ensure that disabled people are no longer left behind. It's time for those in power to deliver on their promises, and turn their words into action.

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**“We commit to ... providing a step
change in the supports and services
required by people with disabilities.”**

**– Securing Ireland's Future
(Programme for Government 2025)**

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#DeliverTheStepChange

People with disabilities continue to face poverty, structural barriers to inclusion and delays in accessing basic supports. Families and communities are at breaking point. Services are overstretched.

This is not inevitable, it's the result of policy choices.

The new government has promised real change. Budget 2026 must be the first step to delivering on its commitments.

Government promises

The government has a mandate for change. Budget 2026 is a chance for political decision-makers to show leadership and follow through on their promises.



“The system is not delivering for disabled people. We can and will do better.”

An Taoiseach Micheál Martin
at the 2025 National Economic Dialogue

DFI members:

- Support **133,500+ people**.
- Provide **4.6+ million hours of support annually**.
- Employ **11,400 staff** and mobilise **nearly 8,000 volunteers**.

Yet organisations are underfunded, overstretched and working in broken systems.

Disabled people still face:

- Long waits for essential services.
- Deprivation due to the extra Cost of Disability.
- Fragmented and inconsistent supports.
- High levels of poverty, isolation and social exclusion.
- Inaccessible systems, services, and communities.
- A huge lack of independent living options and supports.

For Budget 2026, we're calling for urgent, targeted investment in six key areas:

Introduce
a Cost of
Disability
payment



Build
sustainable
health and
social services



Support
children's
services and
inclusive education



Ensure
community
inclusion and
participation



Deliver
housing
for all



Resource
the disability
sector



This Budget must mark a historic turning point. It's time for the government to step up and fund what it has promised, to deliver a step change for people with disabilities.



[Click here for our
full pre-Budget
submission](#)



DFI's vision

An Ireland where people with disabilities are participating fully in all aspects of society.



DFI's mission

DFI is a federation of member organisations working with people with disabilities to implement the UN CRPD and ensure their equal participation in society.



Four-year goal

Member organisations are actively involved in DFI, working to implement the UN CRPD and to achieve the equal participation of people with disabilities in society.

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