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Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

This is a payment from the Health Services Executive under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme, aimed at supporting families with the cost of school uniforms and footwear.

In order to be considered eligible for the payment there are a number of conditions.

- A parent or guardian must be in receipt of a social welfare payment or certain payments for training, education or employment schemes. This includes, for example, Community Employment schemes, Jobs Initiative, FAS training schemes, Back to Education Allowance and VTOS.
- Children must be aged between 4 and 22 (by the 1st October 2012) and in full-time education at a recognised school or college.
- Your household income must be below a certain amount for your household size.

The income limits for a lone parent are set according to the number of children in the family. Household income is assessed as your main social welfare payment or HSE payment and income from work (before tax but less PRSI and reasonable travel costs) plus the income of a qualified child attending Youthreach.

It is a means tested payment so there are income limits that apply:

Lone parent with	Income limit in 2011
1 child	€410.10
2 children	€439.90
3 children	€469.70
4 children	€499.50

In 2012 the rate of payment is expected to be €150 per child aged 4 – 11 and for children aged 12 -17 it is €250. If a child is aged 18 – 22, for whom a child dependent allowance is being paid and who is in full time education, the amount paid is the higher rate of €250.

The scheme operates from the 1st June to the 30th September.

The 2011 scheme is now closed

In 2011 a majority of BTSCFA payments were made automatically for those who received it in 2010. They would have received a letter from the Department advising

them of this but for those who did not, they would have to apply by completing a form and sending it to the Department of Social Protection, PO Box 131, Letterkenny, Co Donegal

You can get a form from your local Health Centre or text FORM BTSCFA followed by your name and address to 51909 (standard text rates apply)