

Basic Income in Ireland

An idea whose time has come

Picture this...

Every week, every year of your life...

you get a **payment from the state**...

that's enough for a **decent life.**

= **A basic income**

What's so special about that?

- ✓ **Everyone** gets it
- ✗ No **means test**
- ✗ No **work requirement**
- ✓ Always **tax-free**
- ✓ Guaranteed **decent standard of living**
- ☆ **From cradle to grave**



How basic income works

- ▶ A **direct payment** every week
- ▶ All other income is **taxed**
- ▶ **Replaces** core social welfare payments
- ▶ **Replaces** most tax credits / allowances
- ▶ Other benefits **unaffected**

Why basic income?

A caring society

- ▶ basic needs
- ▶ financial security
- ▶ mutual care



Basic Income
Ireland

Why basic income?

A smart economy

- ▶ incentives
- ▶ security
- ▶ innovation
- ▶ flexibility
- ▶ skills
- ▶ care
- ▶ social economy
- ▶ efficiency

Why basic income?

Quality of life

- ▶ freedom
- ▶ control
- ▶ fulfilment

How much would it cost?

One model – Social Justice Ireland

↳ **Payments:** existing social welfare rates

...so people now relying on state benefits would be no worse off

↳ **Paid for** by 45% tax on other income

...replacing current tax+USC+PRSI

➤ **Does not affect** other state expenditure

Would basic income benefit Family Carers?

- ▶ **Entry and exit points** to caring
- ▶ Difficulties **proving incapacity** or disability
- ▶ When care is needed for a **short time**
- ▶ **Other cases** that fall through the cracks of the present system



Entry and exit points to caring

- ▶ Delays in getting approved for Carer's Allowance – basic income is always in place
- ▶ When the CA ends, basic income provides financial security while adjusting to new circumstances

Difficulties proving incapacity or disability

- ▶ Basic income is in place during application period
- ▶ Basic income supports carer even if application rejected
- ▶ Basic income allows people to decline applying

When care is needed for a short time

- ▶ Basic income allows carer to negotiate leave / shorter hours **without engaging social welfare system**
- ▶ Care giver and care recipient have much greater degree of choice; **do not have to put their case to the state**

Other cases outside current system

- ▶ Where full-time care is not needed
- ▶ More flexibility for shared care
- ▶ More support for spouse-carers

Basic income and means testing

- ▶ Everyone gets basic income, regardless of other income
- ▶ Avoids 100% withdrawal rate
- ▶ Carers with high incomes will not benefit financially overall, as they will pay more in tax

Basic income is not a panacea

- ▶ Basic income will not solve all problems of care in Irish society...

...but it could support many of the changes we need to make, if we are to be a truly caring society

Questions for you

- ▶ Do you agree that basic income would benefit Family Carers?
- ▶ Does your experience suggest other advantages of basic income?
- ▶ Do you see any problems?

Basic Income Ireland—who we are

- ▶ A diverse network of people in Ireland
- ▶ Affiliated to a global network BIEN
- ▶ Building support for basic income

Get involved!

- ▶ Find out more / join our mailing list
basicincomeireland.com
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[Basic Income Ireland](https://www.facebook.com/BasicIncomeIreland)
- ▶ Tweet us [@basicincomeirl](https://twitter.com/basicincomeirl)
- ▶ Thanks for your participation!