



# Poverty AND Disability

**An easy to read guide to economic inequality  
and the cost of disability.**



An Roinn  
Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of  
Employment Affairs and Social Protection



INCLUSION IRELAND

# Poverty AND Disability



Poverty is when people have less money coming in and so their standard of living is below a suitable level.

Poverty can stop people from being included or having a good life.

The Irish Government says that people with disabilities are two times more likely to be living in poverty than people without disabilities.

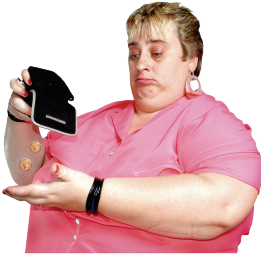
There is an international organisation called the United Nations (the UN) that looks at people's rights.

There is an international agreement on the rights of disabled people called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The UNCRPD says that many people with disabilities live in poverty.

The UNCRPD says that governments need to take action on poverty and that everyone should have enough money to live a good life.

# What does the cost of disability mean?



People with disabilities are often poorer than people without disabilities because they have less money coming in and more money going out.

Many people with a disability do not have jobs or they are paid a lower amount.

Not having a job or having a job that does not pay well can make people poorer.

Many people with disability have extra costs compared to people without a disability.

Some people with disabilities have to spend more money on electricity and medical expenses.

When public transport is not good or easy to access, people may have to get taxis. People in rural areas are affected more by this.

Some people have less money or have to spend more of that money to take part in their communities.



# Lower income



Trinity College Dublin  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



People with disabilities are less likely to go to college compared to people without a disability.

People with disabilities are less likely than people without disabilities to have a job.

People with an intellectual disability are less likely to be working compared with people with other disabilities.

People with disabilities who have jobs normally have jobs with less money. This makes it hard to save money or get credit.

Some people with disabilities may never have a job but should still be able to live a good life.

Jobs are not only about money. Jobs help people be more involved in their community.

# What are the extra costs?

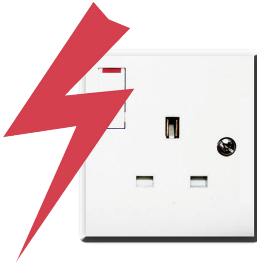


People with disabilities face extra costs for products and services including:

Things used by people with disabilities such as specialist disability aids, changes to their homes and therapies.

Things used by everyone but which people with disabilities use more of like;

- electricity
- gas
- taxis when public transport is not available.



Things used by everyone but which cost more for people with disabilities, like insurance or special clothing or footwear.

The costs can be around €200 more each week.



# What can be done about poverty and disability?



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There can be an increase in the social welfare payment but this is not the only way.



Many other countries make a cost of disability payment to everyone with a disability even if they do not get social welfare. Ireland could do the same.



Assistive technology is technology that helps people access information and their communities. Easier access to assistive technology can help people with the extra costs.

Services that people with disabilities use more of could be at a fairer price.



If services such as healthcare was free for all it could mean less expense for some people with disabilities.



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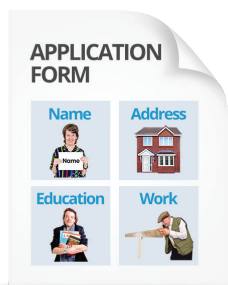
More accessible public transport means that people can use it more instead of needing to use taxis.

The tax system could be looked at to make sure it is fair to all people including people with disabilities who work.



Improving access to education for all people with disabilities can help people to get further education.

Removing barriers to employment can help people with disabilities get a job.



Ireland has a plan called the Comprehensive Employment Strategy (CES). The government should make sure the plan is carried out.



Employers should be helped to support workers with disabilities to stay in jobs and to progress.



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This Easy to Read guide was proof-read for its accessibility by people with disabilities.



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The views expressed in this document are those of Inclusion Ireland and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection.

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection supports this project as part of its funding initiative for the UN day for the eradication of poverty.