



Inclusion Ireland

The National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability.

Our Rights, Our Voices

Inclusion Ireland's Pre-Budget Submission for 2027



What is the Budget?



The **budget** is the government's plan for how it will spend money in the year ahead.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The **government** is the group of leaders who run Ireland and make choices for the country.



Budget 2027 will be announced on Tuesday 6th October by the **Minister for Finance**, Simon Harris.

The Minister for Finance is the person in charge of how the government spends money.



Every year, the government looks at:

- How much money it has.
- What people in Ireland need.
- How to best use money to help people.



The budget is important because:

- It pays for services like health, schools, and housing.
- It helps disabled people get the support they need.
- It can help make life better for everybody living in Ireland.



People with intellectual disabilities, their families, and their supporters can speak up to tell the Government what they need.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

This is why Inclusion Ireland asks people for their views every year to tell us what to ask for in the budget.

Your views help us write a document that tells the government where they need to spend more money.

This document is called a **pre-budget submission**.

Why is the Budget Important for Me?



People with intellectual disabilities have the right to live good and full lives with the supports they need.



A **right** is something that everyone should have, no matter who they are.

Rights help you:

- Be safe.
- Be treated fairly.
- Make choices about your own life



Ireland has signed the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. It is called the ‘**UNCRPD**’ for short.



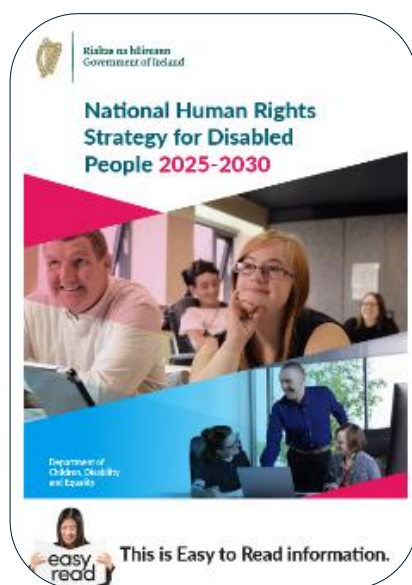
**Disability
Act 2005**



**Equality
Acts 2000 -
2018**

The UNCRPD’s rules say the government must respect and support disabled people’s rights to live good lives.

These rules are in law.



Last year, the government set out its plan to show how it will put the UNCRPD into action.

This plan is called the **National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025–2030**.



It makes important promises to respect and support disabled people's rights.

The budget helps pay for the strategy's promises.



But many disabled people in Ireland are not having their rights respected or supported.

They are waiting long times for appointments.



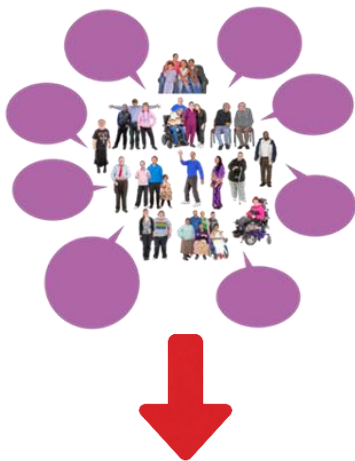
It is hard to own a home in your own area near people you like and services you need.



Many people cannot afford to pay for important things, like groceries, bills, or medicine.



Few people believe that the government listens to them when making choices about the budget.



1,500 people with intellectual disabilities, families, and supporters told Inclusion Ireland what needs to change so they can live better lives.





Budget 2027 is a chance for the government to help people with intellectual disabilities live better lives.



More funding for disabled people's rights helps put the UNCRPD into action.

What People Told Us Needs to Change



Not enough people are living independently.



Living independently means being able to live somewhere of your choosing, alone or with people you like, and close to services.



Three out of five adults with an intellectual disability still live with family.

More than a third want to move into their own homes but lack the right supports.



Families need more help to plan for the future as their son or daughter ages.



Two out of three families of adults with an intellectual disability say 'planning for the future' is their biggest worry.



Just two out of every 10 adults with an intellectual disability said they had a plan to move into their own home.



People do not have enough money.



Two out of every three adults with an intellectual disability say their social welfare payments do not cover what they need.



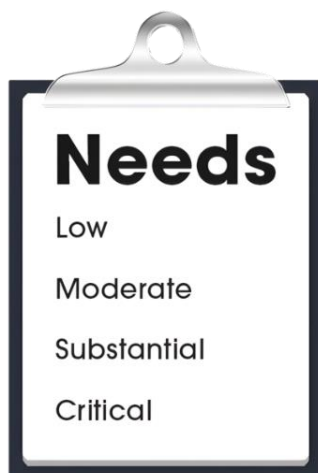
More than a third of families with children with an intellectual disability say they cannot afford the services their child needs.



People are waiting long times for therapies. This causes stress for many families.



More than three-quarters of families with children with an intellectual disability are waiting for therapies after an **assessment of need**.



An assessment of need is when a healthcare worker, like a psychologist, checks what supports children need.



People do not feel listened to.

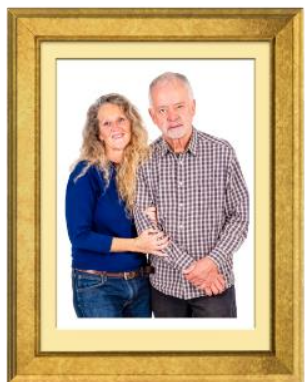
More than half of people with intellectual disabilities and nine out of every ten families say the government does not listen.

What People Told Us in Their Own Words



“Better plan and supports entering into adulthood and cost of living as there’s not much information . . . [I] live with family but don’t want to live with them forever, [I] want my own house near them...”

– Adult with an Intellectual Disability



“Every parent of an adult with an intellectual disability asks the same question: what will happen when I am no longer here? For too long, there has been no real answer.”

– Parent



“Listen to families/children’s lived experience as part of decision making . . . Stop dressing up cuts as better supports or systems.”

– Parent

Inclusion Ireland's Asks for Budget 2027



Introduce a **cost of disability** payment to help cover extra living costs, such as higher energy bills, medicine, or equipment.



Inclusion Ireland believes that the payment must have three important rules:

- It is based on people's rights and is person-centred.
- It is enough to support people living on their own.
- It cannot be taken away if a person takes up work or a higher wage.





Restore welfare supports removed in Budget 2026, such as the Fuel Allowance and Living Alone Increase.

Give disabled people more help with their energy bills.



Fund 300 new places for people with an intellectual disability to live in the community.

Help 200 people move out of residential homes and 100 out of nursing homes.



Increase personal assistance hours and make the **personalised budgets** scheme permanent.



Personalised budgets are a pot of money from the government that lets you choose and pay for your own support.



Make sure every mental health service team for children with an intellectual disability in Ireland has all the staff they need.



Give €1 million to deliver disability and human rights training for teachers delivered by Disabled Persons' Organisations.



Fund more therapists in schools and move towards smaller class sizes so teachers can better support students.



End **reduced timetables** for children with intellectual disabilities and enable families to make a formal complaint.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MORNING						×	×
AFTERNOON			×	×		×	×
EVENING		×	×	×	×	×	×

Reduced timetables are when a school tells a student they can only come to school for part of the day or week.

This is unfair because every student has a right to go to school and learn just like everyone else.

How to Get in Touch



You may have questions about what is in this guide. If you would like to:

- Share your story.
- Get support to speak up.
- Ask questions about the budget.



You can email us at info@inclusionireland.ie.



You can also visit our website: www.inclusionireland.ie