

Basic Income in Ireland

An idea whose time has come



Basic Income
Ireland

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**



Basic Income
Ireland

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



Basic Income
Ireland

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

So, for example:

Single person on average earnings

Gross weekly income	€ 700
Gross tax at 45%	- 315
BI payment	+ 188
Net income	= 573
Net tax rate	18 %

So, for example:

High-income family of four

Gross weekly income	€ 1 600
Gross tax at 45%	– 720
BI payment	+ 441
Net income	= 1 321
Net tax rate	17%

So, for example:

Middle-income family of four

Gross weekly income	€ 800
Gross tax at 45%	– 360
BI payment	+ 441
Net income	= 881
Net gain	10 %

So, for example:

Low-income family of four

Gross weekly income	€ 400
Gross tax at 45%	– 180
BI payment	+ 441
Net income	= 661
Net gain	65 %

So, for example:

Single low earner with two children

Gross weekly income	€ 400
Gross tax at 45%	- 180
BI payment	+ 253
Net income	= 473
Net benefit	18 %

So what's the general effect?

In terms of **income**:

- ☺ People with **low incomes** get **more income**
- ☺ **People who don't currently qualify** for payments get **more income**
- ☹ People with **middle incomes** get **about the same income**
- ☹ **Pensioners on state pensions** get the **same income**
- ☹ **Unemployed people on benefits** get the **same income**
- ☹ People with **high incomes** get **less income**

So what's the general effect?

In terms of **quality of life**:

- ☺ Everyone would be **more secure**
- ☺ Everyone would have **more flexibility** over paid work and unpaid activities
- ☺ Everyone could **afford to study**
- ☺ Everyone could **afford to care for others**
- ☺ No one would face a **poverty trap**
- ☺ No one would face the **indignity of signing on**



Some qualifications

- ▶ Basic income won't solve everything
- ▶ The level will depend on public support
...and economic circumstances
- ▶ There are lots of different ways to fill in the details

Basic income and you

- ▶ If you are **employed** ...
- ▶ If you are **unemployed** ...
- ▶ If you are a **young person** ...
- ▶ If you are **self-employed** or trying to start a business ...
- ▶ If you **care for others**...
- ▶ If you do **artistic and creative work** ...
- ▶ If you are a **farmer** ...



Questions for you

- ① Do you think that basic income would be good for **your life**?
- ② **What do you think** of basic income overall?

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
- ▶ Find us on Facebook
Basic Income Ireland
- ▶ Tweet us [@basicincomeirl](https://twitter.com/basicincomeirl)
- ▶ Thanks for your participation!



Basic Income
Ireland