

Budget 2027: The 23 Asks, the budget announcement and what it means for the people SVP support.

Source: SVP's Proposals for Budget 2027, Summary of key recommendations

Further Information and Sources

Full Budget 2027 Announcement [here](#) and 'The Budget in Brief Your guide to Budget 2027' can be read [here](#)

Tánaiste and Minister for Finance Simon Harris speech [here](#)

Budget 2027 Expenditure Reports can be read [here](#)

Citizen Information [here](#)

SVP Recommendation Adopted in Budget 2027	Total
Partial Adoption	11
No	10
Yes	2

Income Adequacy

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	What does this mean for SVP?
1	Increase core social welfare rates by €15 per week.	Rates (core adult and pension) increased by €10 per week.	This leaves people standing still, it will not reduce levels of poverty for those in receipt of social welfare income. €10 core social welfare increase retains poverty in people's lives, because the current rate was already too low and the impact of the rise in everyday costs, such as food and energy. This means it keeps people where they were and doesn't remove poverty from their lives. The government have ambitious poverty target to reach by 2030, The €10 increase in core social welfare payments, does not increase peoples ability to buy what they need, which means it does not help the government make any progress to reduce child poverty and overall poverty.	SVP is likely to continue to receive requests for assistance from those in receipt of social welfare income, from both those living alone and particularly families with children. Partially adopted

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	What does this mean for SVP?
2	Raise the National Minimum Wage to €15.40 per hour, with appropriate adjustments to income thresholds and earnings disregards.	Raised to €14.94, falling short of our recommendation of €15.40.	In work poverty will continue for people on low wages or volatile/unpredictable contracted hours. This falls short of the increase recommended to meet a real living wage, which is based on workers being able to meet adequate living expenses. It leaves those households barely meeting their monthly essentials and opens them up for greater financial difficulty as they are unable to save or put anything by for unexpected bills.	SVP will continue to receive requests for assistance for either ongoing day to day costs or unforeseen bills for people in low pay employment. Partially adopted
3	Increase the income disregard for the One-Parent Family Payment and Jobseeker's Transitional Payment to the equivalent of 16.5 hours of minimum wage work, and index-link it going forward.	The disregard was increased by €10.	This is welcome after many years of being frozen. However, the amount of the increase is disappointing – we wanted to see an increase to €235 to restore the value of work to lone parents. This will continue to leave one parent families in their high levels of poverty.	The requests for assistance we receive from this group will continue to be high. Partially adopted

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	What does this mean for SVP?
4	Extend the Living Alone Allowance to one-adult households with dependent children in receipt of a primary social welfare payment.	The Living Alone Allowance was increased by €3 and not extended to lone-parent households.	It is disappointing it hasn't been extended to lone parents – these families experience really high poverty rates, and this payment would have made a real difference. It will continue to leave one-parent households unable to meet everyday costs and especially when larger bills or unexpected costs come their way.	The requests for assistance SVP receive from this group will continue to be high. We were particularly concerned for this groups rate of poverty. Partially adopted

Children Living in Poverty

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	What does this mean for SVP?
5	Increase the Child Support Payment by €10 to €68 for children under 12, and by €18 to €96 for children 12 and over.	Increase of only €6.	This decision is a step back and continues to leave children and families particularly those with one or multiple children over 12 years of age unable to meet their needs. This is below what is needed to reduce child poverty. Last year the government had showed they understood that the needs of children under 12 are different (and lower) than children over 12. This is an extremely disappointing decision. It's a step back from reducing child poverty. From January 2027 the payments will be; €64 for children under 12 years of age. €84 for children aged 12 years and over.	This is where we can put in the cornered about this group. SVP will continue to receive the high number of requests of assistance from families with children. Partially adopted

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	What does this mean for SVP?
6	Introduce the International Protection Child Payment without further delay, at a rate equivalent to Child Benefit, and increase the Daily Expenses Allowance rates with a commitment to regular indexation.	There was no mention of this essential payment to support children.	This payment was announced 2 Budgets ago and it hasn't happened or as far as we are aware begun to happen. Children and families in IPAS centres are experiencing the highest level of poverty in Ireland, and this will continue.	Recommendation not adopted
7	Extend access to Transition Year for low-income households and introduce a double Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance payment for qualifying young people entering Transition Year.	No announcement on this.	Transition Year (TY) is an important year, but the cost leaves young people from low-income families out of reach. There was no announcement of increasing the direct financial supports to schools to fund TY either. The funding for TY per pupil remains at €100. Access to Transition Year will continue to be unequal for children in low-income families who cannot afford it.	SVP will continue to receive requests for assistance to support families to give their children access to TY and the additional costs it brings. Advice to our Membership has been updated in our Investing in Education document, found on our membership website. Recommendation not adopted

Housing and Homelessness

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
8	Increase the provision of social housing stock and affordable cost rental homes for vulnerable and low-income households, including new builds and vacant homes.	No Announcement	Pleased to see increased funding for social housing homes, but insufficient given scale of housing challenges.	Recommendation not adopted
9	Establish a ring-fenced Homelessness Prevention Fund, aligned with the Homelessness Prevention Framework and the Child and Family Homelessness Action Plan, amounting to 20% of all homelessness expenditure.	No announcement.	Very disappointing, we need dedicated funding to prevent people reaching homelessness in the first place.	Recommendation not adopted

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
10	Provide targeted homelessness prevention and move-on supports for households transitioning from International Protection and Temporary Protection accommodation.	No announcement.		Recommendation not adopted
11	Reform the Housing Assistance Payment scheme so it reflects actual housing costs and protects low-income households. Until reform is implemented, the Department of Social Protection should provide an Additional Needs Payment to ensure a minimum after-housing-costs income.	No announcement.	In the absence of action, people will continue to pay top ups that mean renters will struggle to afford other essentials.	Recommendation not adopted

Education

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
12	Increase capitation grants significantly to reflect actual running costs and eliminate reliance on voluntary contributions and extend the Free School Meals Programme to all post-primary schools.	Primary School Capitation Funding was increased by €68 (25%) per pupil. Bringing the rate to €342 per pupil. Post-Primary School A €40 (10%) capitation funding increase for per-pupil. Bringing the rate to €446 per pupil. No announcements on school meals extending to all post-primary schools.	Further investment will be needed for post-primary. We hope this increase (particularly for primary schools) will eliminate the need for primary schools to rely on 'voluntary' contributions or school charges of any other name from parents. Free education should mean free. The funding will continue to leave post primary schools relying on parents to fill the funding gap through voluntary contributions or school charges of any other name. These new rates will begin from September 2027.	SVP will continue to receive requests for assistance from families who feel pressured to pay all school charges for their children, particularly those in post-primary schools where voluntary contributions are higher. Partial Adoption

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
13	End direct costs to families by funding school-based digital device loan schemes and extending medical card fee exemptions to include mock examinations and correction fees.	No announcements.	This is an area of significant concern for us and needed action this year, so schools and parents have clarity. This issue needs direction and funding from the department of education. Free education should mean free education. Digital devices have replaced and at a greater amount, the cost of schoolbooks.	SVP will continue to hear from families struggling to meet this great cost, particularly in families with multiple children at school where devices are made mandatory and for young people in senior cycle as they are working in the new curriculum which requires online project work. Membership can access the investing in education handbook on the membership SharePoint website. Recommendation not adopted

#	SVP Pre-Budget Recommendation	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
14	Reform SUSI by benchmarking grants and income thresholds to the cost of living and earnings and substantially increase financial supports for apprentices to cover accommodation, food and travel during training.	4% increase to SUSI grants. A permanent €150 reduction in the student contribution fee. The fee from September 2027 will be €2,350. New grant supports for families with more than one student in higher education.	Pleased there has been an increase in the SUSI maintenance grant, and we welcome recognising families with multiple children studying at third level which was included in our recommendation. Families with more than one student in higher education could see their student contribution costs reduced by up to €1,300 per year. However, the grants amounts do not match the real costs of third level education and so low-income students will continue to struggle. Record funding was announced to support apprenticeships, however, we have yet to see whether this includes any increases to the financial support to craft apprentices.	It will continue to drive students to seeking further support from SVP through our Education and Training Bursary Programmes and Conferences. Partially adopted

Early Years Education

#	Ask	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
15	Progress towards €200 per month ECEC fees, as committed to in the Programme for Government, with proportionate thresholds for one-parent families, by taking responsibility for educators' wages.	Reduced monthly childcare cost to €550. Announced €1,000 per year reduction for a full-time place. Increase the reckonable income by €3,500 for NCS childcare maximum subsidy support. Further increases between 500 to 1,500 for multiple children in childcare and an additional 5,000 tax free earnings for childminders – taking it to 20,000.	We are pleased to see this progress towards reducing childcare costs for parents. This shows us that the government is working towards its commitment in the Programme for Government to reduce childcare costs to €200 per month. From September 2027, families with a reckonable income of €38,500 or less will be able to get the maximum income-assessed subsidy. In a general sense, as net income is different for everyone, this will help families on low wages and/or one part-time earner receive the greater ECEC support.	Partially adopted

Energy and Climate Justice

#	Ask	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
16	Increase the Fuel Allowance by €4 to €42 and retain the 32-week Fuel Allowance season.	The Fuel Allowance has been increased by €5 per week but the F.A. payment season has gone back to only 28 weeks.	While the increased weekly payment is welcome, overall, the Fuel Allowance has lost value compared to last year as the government haven't maintained the 32 week season. This is going to lead to a difficult winter considering price rises and the existing level of energy arrears.	Maintaining the 32-week payment season is essential in the face of high arrears and rising bills – we continue to call for the extension of the Fuel Allowance season this year in recognition of the ongoing crisis for households in energy poverty.
17	Increase the Household Benefits Package by €5.	No movement.	The current rate remains at €35 per month. This payment is a vital support to recipients, and the reduced value will be felt when people are trying to meet the cost of essential energy.	This means the Housing Benefits Package continues to lose value every year that prices go up – we are very concerned about the recipients of the HHB who needed the extra assistance to pay for this winter's heating and meet their essential electricity costs.
18	Pilot energy poverty retrofit schemes targeting private rented sector tenants, focusing initially on HAP tenancies.	Budget 2027 committed funding for more generous grants for solar, attic and cavity insulation for certain Department of Social Protection recipients and homes in HAP, RAS, and RASP tenancies	It is really important that tenants benefit from retrofitting too - they are at high risk of energy poverty. We were pleased to see that further grant funding for solar panels and insulation will be piloted in the private rented sector.	We look forward to learning further details. In the meantime, SVP members will continue to support tenants paying for high energy bills whilst living in cold, damp homes.

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19	Pilot a programme of Community Energy Advisors.	No announcement.	This would have been a vital support to people struggling with energy costs and in poor quality homes. As prices and arrears rise, and people in cold homes consider efficiencies and retrofitting, one-to-one support is needed to help people navigate energy poverty.	The recommendation was not adopted. We will continue to campaign for this advice service.

Disability and Supports for Children with Additional Needs

#	Ask	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
20	Introduce a weekly Cost of Disability Payment.	Annual €500 announced to be paid in January.	A one-off annual payment of €500 is less than €10 per week for the year for people living with a disability. A permanent payment is welcome, but preference was for a weekly payment that would enable people to budget for their costs across the whole year. This payment needs to increase significantly in the coming years to match the actual additional cost of living with a disability. It is very positive that the announcement said that this permanent payment will be developed with disabled people and their support organisations.	Due to the additional cost of disability and the previous one-off payments being stopped for this group we were particularly concerned about them going into Budget. We will continue to receive requests for assistance from this group as their level of poverty is so high. SVP Social Justice responded to the public consultation on this in April, read here for more information. Partially adopted
21	Increase financial supports for medical-related travel and accommodation costs for low-income households, particularly in rural and regional areas.	No mention.	It is disappointing not to see this need for those requiring healthcare recognised.	SVP will continue to hear from people, particularly in rural areas and in rural conferences, who will have a greater financial need in accessing health care in cities far from home. Recommendation not adopted

#	Ask	Budget Announcement	What does this mean for the people SVP support?	
22	Provide targeted investment, including ring-fenced funding, to eliminate Assessment of Need backlogs and ensure compliance with statutory timelines.	No announcements specifically as work has been underway – Please see the Assessment of Need document in the newsletter under Policy in Focus. Support from the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) will be expanded to children under 3 years old.	Investment in the system was announced; we will watch the progress made and await further details. It is a positive step to include children under 3 years of age included in the AIM model – this will help support parents who are seeking the additional support their children need without waiting for an assessment or paying for a privately funded assessment.	When worried and concerned parents are getting their children the support they need earlier, they may have a lesser need to contact SVP to provide support for private assessments and therapy. Partially adopted
23	Increase investment in special educational provision so every child can access an appropriate school placement locally, including more special classes and special school places.	2,339 additional Special Needs Assistants and 1,353 additional teachers will support children with special educational needs and mainstream schools.	It is a very positive announcement of the increase in Special Needs Assistance (SNA) and teachers in special schools and mainstream settings. We hope this recruitment takes place quickly so the families and children we're supporting experience these benefits as soon as possible because the need is great.	We hope that this gives children their right to access education. Adopted