



## An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

**News Release 16 August 2010**

### **Ó Cuív – still time to apply for support for back to school costs**

As the month of September approaches, **Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister for Social Protection** today (16<sup>th</sup> August) reminded families who may be eligible for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance that they still have time to apply for the scheme. The closing date for completed applications is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010. This year some €82 million is available to support parents with the costs of school clothing and footwear for their children.

Parents/guardians receive €200 for each eligible child aged between 2 and 11 years and €305 for each eligible child aged between 12 and 22 years.

Encouraging families to apply for the support available, Minister Ó Cuív said: "The start of a school term is always a busy time in many households and it is important that families who are eligible for this scheme avail of it. It is now easier than ever to apply for an application. A mobile text service can be used to obtain an application form for the allowance."

For an application form text - **FORM BTSCFA** - to 51909 followed by your name and address. Parents are also welcome to apply to their local HSE office for funding under the scheme.

**Minister Ó Cuív** also said: "When our new school year gets underway, approximately 160,000 families will have applied for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear allowance and my Department has set aside €82 million specifically to help parents with their back to school costs."

A person may qualify for payment of the allowance if they are in receipt of a Social Welfare payment (including Family Income Supplement), or a Health Service Executive payment, are participating in an approved employment scheme or attending a recognised education and training course and have household income at or below certain set levels. The weekly income limit for the allowance for parents with one child is now €563.60 for couples, and €410.10 for those parenting alone.

The scheme is administered on behalf of the Department of Social Protection by the Community Welfare Division of the Health Service Executive. Application forms are available in Health Service Executive Offices and online at:

[www.welfare.ie/EN/Forms/Documents/bscfa.pdf](http://www.welfare.ie/EN/Forms/Documents/bscfa.pdf) or at  
[communitywelfareservice.ie/cws\\_public/application-forms](http://communitywelfareservice.ie/cws_public/application-forms)



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**The rates of payment are:**

- a. €200 in respect of children aged 2 to 11 on the 30th September 2010;
- b. €305 in respect of children aged 12 to 17 on the 30th September 2010;
- c. €305 in respect of children aged 18 to 22 on the 30th September 2010 who are in full time education.
- d. As a special measure introduced in Budget 2009, an additional amount of €215 is payable for children aged 18 ONLY in respect of whom compensatory Child Benefit is in payment. Total payment in respect of eligible children aged 18 is €520.

**ENDS**