



HIH GUIDE: Financial Supports for Hosts

Accommodation Recognition Payment

In September 2022, the Government approved a monthly payment of €400 for those who provide accommodation in a pledged home for displaced Ukrainians; this is called the **Accommodation Recognition Payment**.

As of 1 December 2022, the monthly payment has doubled to €800. There is no need to apply for the increase, once you've signed up for the payment, it's automatic. It's paid directly to your account on the second Tuesday of the month. It is not means tested and is tax free. It is not affected by guests contributing to utilities such as electricity or food. Payment is per home, not per guest.

All hosts may apply for the [Government Accommodation Recognition Payment](#). It's an easy process that requires the PPS numbers of you and your guests, as well as a MyGovID and takes just 15 minutes. You can create a [MyGov account here](#)

To cease payment, send an email to ARP@welfare.ie with your PPS number.

If your guest leaves before 6 months, you will not be penalised or have to return the payment. So long as the intent was clear to host for 6 months, any payment received is yours.

You can find general information and apply for this payment here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/cfd95-accommodation-recognition-payment/>

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about this payment are here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e03af-accommodation-recognition-payment-scheme-general-information/>

Read the legislation for yourself here, part 2 is the relevant one:

<http://www.legislation.ie/eli/2022/act/19/enacted/en/pdf>

Other Financial Supports

In the meantime, if you are hosting and (like most hosts!) are finding it a drain financially, we asked the experts at [Nasc](#) and they suggest:

- Ask the guest to make a **small contribution** towards cost of utilities and other bills – it can be a difficult subject to discuss for hosts and guests – but these contributions don't affect the recognition payment. The FAQs in the government website linked above say: *“Entitlement to the [€800] payment is not affected by any agreement between the host and beneficiaries regarding a contribution towards the costs of utilities.”*

- Last, but not least there's an [Additional Needs Payment](#) application. This is a once-off payment - a person can apply multiple times but it is not a regular payment like jobseekers that is weekly - for expenses that people cannot pay for their weekly income. It is a means tested and the community welfare officers have discretion. Examples of expenses could be: increase in fuel or electricity costs, essential repairs to property or replacing household appliances and furniture, etc.

Any host may apply for this at any time. You can find more information and forms for this payment here:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/supplement_ary_welfare_schemes/additional_needs_payment.html

Renting as an alternative to hosting

While the Accommodation Recognition Payment is not payable if there is a rental agreement with the person being hosted, we are including this information in case it is useful to you now or to your guests in the future.

With the rent-a room relief, you can earn up to €14,000 tax free if you rent out a room (or rooms) in your home to private tenants.

The government announced a disregard of up to €14,000 per year for those renting rooms in their home and this will not affect their means tested social welfare payments including household benefits package or fuel allowance (although for fuel allowance, the person renting must also qualify for the allowance in their own right). The additional advantage of this is that the tenant (guest) can get Rent Supplement to assist with the rent. So, it may very well be that the guest may not pay the full rent and only a small contribution (the minimum weekly contribution is €30).

For Rent Supplement limits per area see [here](#) (depends on location and family size). The disregard benefits people who are renting a room in their house and who may be in receipt of social welfare payments themselves ie Jobseekers Allowance, Disability Allowance, etc.

If you are renting a room in your own home (not self-contained) you are not covered by landlord-tenant legislation and you do not need to register the tenancy with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB).

For more information about the Rent-a room relief visit:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/housing/owning_a_home/home_owners/rent_a_room_scheme.html

ENDS