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Richard Boyd Barrett, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

PQ: 19175/25

**To ask the Minister for Health the details of all services, grants, loans and payments available to individuals or households funded by her Department and agencies under her remit; the eligibility requirements and any conditionality for receiving the service, grant, loan or payment (details supplied); and the monetary value, or range of values, of the service, grant, loans or payment, where applicable.**  
**-Richard Boyd Barrett**

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 19175/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please be advised that Medical Card and GP Visit Card eligibility is based on a family unit assessment through the completion of a Medical Card and GP Visit Card application. As per National Assessment Guidelines a family is defined as an adult, their spouse or partner and any of their child dependents. In addition please note that Medical Card eligibility is primarily based on an assessment of means and is not granted on the basis of any particular condition, of itself, (except in limited cases: e.g. persons affected by drug Thalidomide; Symphysiotomy survivors etc.).

If a client wishes to submit any outgoings they may have, the Eligibility Unit will accept the following -

- Rent
- Mortgage
- Mortgage Protection/Life assurance premium for mortgage protection
- Fire and Contents Insurance
- Childcare
- Travel to Work Costs
- Nursing home fees
- Maintenance payment

Moreover please note, in cases where a family is deemed over the financial threshold for a Medical Card and a Medical Report is included with an application the HSE still has discretion to forward such an application to a Medical Officer for discretionary review. As part of this review the Medical Officer will advise whether the medical circumstances indicated on an application will cause a family unnecessary financial hardship. The application will then be fully reviewed by a Deciding Officer.

Medical Card holders in receipt of the full rate applicable to the individual of any of the following allowances/benefits and are unemployed for a period of 12 consecutive months or more, are entitled to retain their Medical Card for three years upon the date of taking up new employment:

- Jobseekers Allowance (Excluding TPU category)
- Jobseekers Benefit
- One Parent Family Payment
- Illness Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Disability Allowance
- Blind Pension
- Back to Work Family Dividend
- Employment Incentive Schemes or Educational Opportunity Schemes

Anyone over 70 and resident in Ireland, are assessed under our Over 70s scheme, which means that they are assessed according to their gross income. The benefit of this is that the financial threshold for persons over 70 is much higher than the threshold for clients between the ages of 0-69 and so different rules apply to this application process. As per our Standard Operating Procedures for Over 70 applicants, Living Alone Allowance and Over 80s Allowance must be assessed as part of an application for Over 70 applicants.

Anyone aged 16-25 receiving a weekly income of less than €164, living at home or away attending school or college are eligible for a card under their parents eligibility.

Please note the Medical Card scheme is administered under the National Medical Card/GP Visit Card National Assessment Guidelines. These guidelines are available on the HSE website [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

**The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: [Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)**

