

The Home Care Sector in Ireland

2025 Quarterly Snapshot

November 2025



The Irish Home Care Sector

Recent developments

Since our last quarterly home care sector update

2026 Budget released in October 2025: Below are the highlights of the impact to home care. In the October 2025 announcement of the 2026 Budget, the Minister for Older People confirmed an additional allocation of €215 million for services for older persons which is an increase of over 7% compared to 2025. The home care budget allocation is to increase by 9.8% with budgeted care hours to increase by 7.1%. The following outlines the key implications of this budget for the home care sector.

Increase in home care hours^{1,2}

Home care budget	Proposed increase	2026 levels	% increase
Home care allocation	€82m	€920m	9.8%
Care hours	+1.7m	c. 25.7m*	7.1%

The Minister commented that, home support is a key priority for Government. It will support more people to access services that help them to live well in their own homes and communities.

*based off the 2025 budgeted home support hours per the National Service Plan (NSP) of 24.0m hours⁴

Benefits to carers³

Key impacts to carers	Proposed increase	2026 levels
Carer's benefit	+€10	€271 per week (max rate)
Carer's allowance - under 66	+€10	€270 per week (max full rate)
Carer's allowance - aged 66+	+€10	€308 per week (max full rate)
Income disregard for Carer's Allowance		
Single	+€375	€1,000 per week
Couple	+€750	€2,000 per week
Income limit for Carer's Benefit	+€375	€1,000 per week

The Minister commented that the €28.9 billion allocation to the Department of Social Protection (increase of over €2 billion) allows the provision of a €10 increase per week for c.1.5 million recipients, including pensioners, people with disabilities, carers, jobseekers and lone parents.



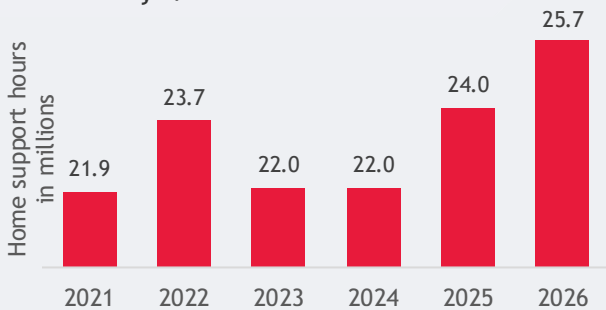
1. <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-health/press-releases/older-persons-services-budget-2026/>
 2. Home Help Service - Tuesday, 13 May 2025 - Parliamentary Questions (34th Dáil) - Houses of the Oireachtas
 3. <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-social-protection/publications/budget-2026/#supports-for-carers>
 4. National service plan 2021-2025, Budget announcement 2026; NSP 2021 target was revised within the NSP Q1 2021 Review, therefore the comparative in NSP 2022 has been used herein; NSP 2023 target was initially 23.9m but later amended during the year to 22m.

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Budgeted home support (excluding iHCPs) has increased by c.17% since 2021⁴



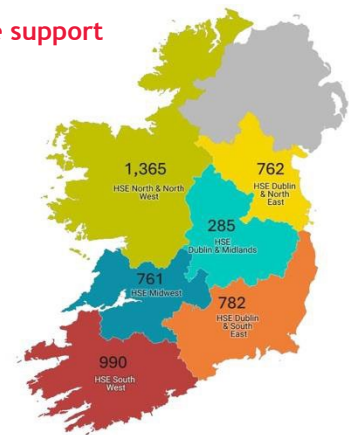
In June 2025, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) reported a projected up to a c. 91% growth in demand for home support hours by 2040 due to our ageing demographics.⁵

The increased funding allocation for home support in the 2026 budget whilst being positive, needs to continue in this vein in ensuing years so as to ensure the projected demand levels are met. The long awaited Statutory Home Support Scheme is also seen as essential for the sector to meet its demands and to ensure a high standard of care is continued to be provided to those who require home support.

The Statutory Home Support Scheme is expected to include a regulatory framework for home care and include a new funding model. The Minister of State at the Department of Health (DOH) has confirmed that the DOH is researching different funding models for the development of a sustainable funding model for home care services. We note that the Autumn 2025 legislative programme, published in September 2025, designates the Health (Licensing of Professional Home Support Providers) Bill as a priority.^{6,7}

HCCI released the home support waiting list heat map

Shown opposite is a map presenting the HSE home support waiting list by region as of June 2025⁸



- ▶ The waiting list for HSE home support services stood at 4,945 individuals as of June 2025, distributed across the 6 HSE regions as shown in the map above.
- ▶ HCCI published the HSE home support waiting list by county in October 2025 based on waiting list data between 2024 & 2025 noting that counties experiencing high waiting lists are Cork (885), Galway (362) and Clare (304) while Clare experienced the highest waiting list per 1,000 people at 2.386 compared to a national average of 0.927.⁹
- ▶ The report further explored the cause for the shortages stating that, while home carer shortages, especially in rural areas, are commonly cited as the main reason for waiting lists, this does not fully explain the significant variation between similar areas.
- ▶ The report quoted that, “for example, rural home care ‘blackspots’ like Donegal, Cork, and Mayo neighbour other rural counties with low waiting lists like Sligo, Roscommon, and Kerry”.
- ▶ On foot of this analysis amongst other recommendations, the HCCI has called for a waiting list taskforce to be formed along with targeted funding for blackspot areas and enabling block booking home care.

4. National service plan 2021-2025, [Budget announcement 2026](#); NSP 2021 target was revised within the NSP Q1 2021 Review, therefore the comparative in NSP 2022 has been used herein; NSP 2023 target was initially 23.9m but later amended during the year to 22m.

5. https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/RS214_1.pdf

6. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-09-17/1232/>

7. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-09-23/696/>

8. <https://hcci.ie/autumn-2025-home-care-briefing-note/>

9. [Clare has the highest waiting list per 1,000 people - HCCI - Home and Community Care Ireland](#)

Outlook

The increased allocation for the home care sector in the 2026 Budget is a positive development for the industry. However and as outlined by the ESRI, demand for home care services is expected to rise in the coming years. Continued budgetary investment along with the introduction of the Statutory Home Support Scheme are seen as necessary prerequisites to helping the sector meet this demand.

BDO notes that in light of the strong demand for home care services, there has been ongoing investment in the sector, evidenced by the expansion of companies operating in this space.

However, additional investment remains necessary to enable our ageing population to remain in their homes for as long as possible, before progressing to other care options along the continuum of care.

BDO have assisted many home care operators with their growth plans, should you wish to discuss access to capital or routes to achieving growth specific to your circumstances, please contact any member of the BDO Home Care team.

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