fundraising solutions

0% Credit Card fees FREE Microsite 8 Fundraising Modules
www.FundraisingSolutions.co

Budget 2026 — Social Welfare, Personal Tax and Charity Sector Summary

Social Welfare Measures (Effective January 2026)

- Weekly core social welfare payments increased by €10 for all recipients.
- Child Support Payment: +€16 per week for children aged 12+, +€8 for children under 12.
- Fuel Allowance increased from €33 → €38 per week.
- Working Family Payment income thresholds raised by €60 across all family sizes.
- Carer's Allowance: income disregard increased to €1,000 (single) / €2,000 (couple) from July 2026.
- Carer's Benefit income limit increased by €375 to €1,000.
- Domiciliary Care Allowance increased by €20 per month to €380.
- Christmas Bonus: double payment for eligible long-term welfare recipients (December 2025).

Personal Tax and PRSI Changes

- Minimum Wage increased from €13.50 → €14.15 per hour (effective 1 January 2026).
- Universal Social Charge (USC): 2% rate band ceiling raised by €1,318 to €28,700.
- No change to main Income Tax bands or credits announced in Budget 2026.
- PRSI increases from October 2025 (from previous budget):
- – Employee PRSI: 4.1% → 4.2%.
- – Employer PRSI (standard): 11.15% → 11.25%.
- – Employer PRSI (lower band ≤ €527/week): 8.9% → 9.0%.
- – Self-employed/Class S PRSI: +0.1%.

Charity and Voluntary Sector Measures

- An additional €3.8 billion allocated to the Department of Children, Disability & Equality for 2026.
- Funding increase includes disability, social inclusion, and community development programmes.
- Establishment of a dedicated service delivery unit within the Department to coordinate funded services.
- Provision for implementation of public-service pay adjustments covering funded community and voluntary organisations.
- Continued funding for the Community Services Programme, SICAP, and Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO).
- Multi-annual funding confirmed for national and local voluntary bodies under existing arrangements.
- R&D Tax Credit increased from 30% → 35% (available for qualifying R&D by eligible charities).
- No change to the Charitable Donation Scheme or VAT Compensation Refund Scheme.