

The integration allowance

You have no or a limited income as a result of a disability and additional costs in order to live independently. You may be eligible for an income replacement and/or integration payment.

What?

The integration allowance is a financial benefit for disabled persons who find it difficult to carry out daily tasks. The benefit is intended to cover the costs which result from the disability. It will only be allocated to persons with an income that falls under a specific limit.

This payment is allocated by the Federal Public Service Social Security (FODSZ) - Directorate - General for Persons with a Disability (GDPMH).

For whom?

The payment is allocated on the basis of certain criteria.

- **Age.** The applicant must be aged **between 18 and 65**.
- **The extent of self-reliance:** The disability in itself is not the determining factor; the level of self-reliance is. The level of difficulty that is encountered when carrying out day-to-day tasks will be checked. The extent of self-reliance will be established during a medical examination and will be determined on the basis of six areas:
 - Capacity to move independently;
 - Capacity to prepare food;
 - Capacity to carry out personal hygiene tasks and get dressed;
 - Capacity to maintain the home and carry out household tasks;
 - Capacity to estimate hazards;
 - Capacity to maintain social contacts.

For each of these areas, points will be allocated based on the difficulties that are experienced in daily life.

No difficulties	0 points
Minor difficulties	1 point
Major difficulties	2 points
Impossible without help	3 points

- **Residence:** The person who applies for the integration benefit must reside in Belgium and genuinely live in the country.
- **Nationality:** The person must also have one of the nationalities that is set out by the legislation, or be stateless, or be recognised as a refugee or as having subsidiary protection.
- **Income from family:** The calculation of integration benefit will only take account of the income of the person with the disability. Certain exemptions can, however, be applied to the income,

including income from employment for the disabled person. Since 1 October 2021, the gross, taxable income of the disabled person is exempt up to € 63.000 (with indexation, this amount is € 73.815,69 on 01-05-2024).

- **Important:** since a change in the legislation in March 2021, no account has been taken of the income of the partner (the so-called 'price of love') since 1 January 2021. **Decision:** the amount of the payment that is allocated depends on the category of reduced self-reliance, the family situation and family income.

Amount

Category	Maxim amount - Euro/year (01-05-2024)	Maximum amount - Euro/month (01-05-2024)
Category 1 (7 to 8 points)	€ 1.550,43	€ 129,20 per month
Category 2 (9 to 11 points)	€ 5.128,21	€ 427,35 per month
Category 3 (12 to 14 points)	€ 8.155,74	€ 679,65 per month
Category 4 (15 to 16 points)	€ 11.852,46	€ 987,71 per month
Category 5 (17 to 18 points)	€ 13.437,21	€ 1.119,77 per month

How to submit a request

You can start the application from the age of 17 (entitlement as of 18 years old).

Consideration and submission of request

- The request is started at the **municipal offices, town hall or social office where you live**, by the **welfare officer working for the healthcare insurance fund, or by the person with the disability**. The request for the integration benefit is submitted via MyHandicap: handicap.belgium.be/nl/erkenning-handicap/procedure-erkenning.htm.
- As a disabled person, you may submit your request independently (or with help from a family member or friend) by logging in with your electronic ID card on handicap.belgium.be and completing the online questionnaire via MyHandicap for citizens
- **Need help? If you need help, you can contact CM's Social Work service.**
- The request takes place by means of an interactive questionnaire. The FPS Social Security will ask for additional information that is relevant if they do not already have these details. Completing the questionnaire will take around 30 minutes. If you like, the welfare officer from the healthcare insurance fund can go through this with you and help you complete it.
- The file will be sent electronically to the Directorate-General of Persons with a Disability (DGPMH). The medical information will be requested by DGPMH digitally from your doctor. You do not need to fill in any paper documents.

Examining the request

Administrative examination

- The FPS Social Security also uses electronic fluxing to gather information they do not have. Most of this process is automated.

Evaluation of disability

- On the basis of the information submitted, the doctor will evaluate the extent to which the disability impacts on day-to-day activities. He may invite you to attend an appointment or will contact your treating doctor. The doctor must carry out the evaluation on the basis of a questionnaire and provide reasons if he deviates from certain norms.

Decision

- You will receive a letter in which the decision is explained. The decision also defines the measures (certificate) to which you are entitled, the duration thereof and the corresponding payment amount.
- You will then receive a calculation of the arrears.
- On the 25th of the month (approximately) following the decision, you will receive the first month's payment as well as the arrears owed.

The appeal procedure

- If you do not agree with the decision, you can submit an appeal for up to 3 months after receipt. We recommend that you carefully investigate the feasibility of submitting an appeal. Your union or healthcare insurance fund can offer advice and support when undergoing an appeal procedure.

How to submit a request for someone else? (via a power of attorney)

If a parent/guardian, (legal) representative or simply the next of kin of a disabled person wishes to help that person, you can request a mandate. You can manage this yourself, using My Handicap.

You register as having a mandate for the disabled person, using their ID card and pin code or via Itsme. The disabled person gives you permission to manage the file by signing the 'for approval' mandate. From then on, you can manage the file using your ID card.

Specifically, this means that a family member, for example, who wishes to monitor a request for a disabled person only has to sign the mandate using that person's ID card once. The family member can then use their own ID card to monitor the file.

You also have the option to make the request in the presence of the disabled person and use his/her electronic ID card (eID) and pin code or Itsme to log into My Handicap.

GOOD TO KNOW

The act of 27/02/1987 on payments to persons with disabilities is a complex piece of legislation. CM's Social Work service has gained a great deal of expertise regarding requests to the FPS Social Security. The service will happily provide information and advice regarding initiating a file, submitting the request and with respect to any questions about reviewing your file due to the deterioration of your medical situation. **We recommend that you always consult your treating doctor for any request.**

If you need help to submit a request, do not forget to bring the following:

- Your identity card
- Your bank account number
- The name and address of your treating doctor/ specialist

ATTENTION

These payments are not subject to tax.

If your condition deteriorates, you can submit a new application via My Handicap. You must report any new information that could give rise to a change in the payment amount. Changes in the annual income of 20% or more must be reported to the FPS Social Security within 3 months. This can be reported via the [contact form](#) of the FPS Social Security or via My Handicap.

'Aan deze publicatie kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend. Zij is louter indicatief bedoeld.'
Uitgifte: December 2024 – vertaald augustus 2022 – EN – FOD SZ Integratietegemoetkoming

Heb je een klacht? Laat het ons weten via www.cm.be/klachten of contacteer een CM-medewerker. Met jouw reactie verbeteren we immers onze service. Wij garanderen een eerste reactie binnen de zeven dagen en de volledige behandeling van je klacht binnen de 30 dagen.

New since 01-01-2024

There is a more favorable exemption when resuming employment for individuals who have had no employment income for 2 years or longer and had an IVT and/or IT recognition. This rule was introduced to encourage long-term unemployed people to return to work. To be eligible, the income must have increased by 20% or more compared to the previous year. This more favorable exemption is applied for the first 2 years of employment.

Need more information?

For more information about the request, please contact the Care Line www.cm.be/zorglijn.

You can also contact the welfare officer at the FPS Social Security, which has a monthly surgery in most cities and municipalities. For up-to-date amounts and the surgery dates, you can consult handicap.belgium.be/docs/nl/zitdagen-vlaanderen-brussel.pdf.

You can call the service on the freephone number 0800 987 99 from Monday to Friday, from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Online request and monitoring of the personal file: handicap.belgium.be (My Handicap for citizens)

Website FODSZ - Directorate - General for Persons with a Disability: handicap.belgium.be/nl/