

**ALONE**

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

2025**Pre-Budget
SUBMISSION**

Our Work

ALONE is a national organisation that enables older people to age at home. We will provide support over 45,000 older people around Ireland this year.

Our work is for all older people and aims to improve physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. We have a National network of staff and volunteers who provide an integrated system of Support Coordination, Practical Supports, Support & Befriending, a variety of Phone Services, Social Prescribing, Housing with Support and Assistive Technology.

We use individualised support plans, to address health, financial benefits and supports, social care, housing, transport and other arising needs using technology and through harnessing other services.

We work to empower the whole sector of community support for older people through our Community Impact Network that provides Training, IT support and resources to other organisations.

OUR BUDGET ASKS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

€18 INCREASE IN PENSION THIS YEAR AND NEXT AND BENCHMARK STATE PENSION
Estimated cost: €692.1 M

INCREASE THE LIVING ALONE ALLOWANCE BY A MINIMUM OF €10
Estimated cost: €122.8 M

INCREASE THE TELEPHONE SUPPORT ALLOWANCE BY A MINIMUM OF €7.50
Estimated cost: €60.6 M

INCREASE THE FUEL ALLOWANCE BY A MINIMUM OF €10
Estimated cost: €124.8 M

SIMPLIFY THE PROCESSES FOR APPLYING FOR ENTITLEMENTS TO ENABLE ACCESSIBILITY FOR OLDER PEOPLE.

“ No money left after bills, I can't afford to use the electric much in the winter. ”

OUR BUDGET ASKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT LONELINESS
Estimated cost: €5 M

DEVELOP A BUDGET LINE AND ALLOCATE SPECIFIC FUNDING TO HOUSING WITH SUPPORT DEVELOPMENTS

INCREASE FUNDING TO THE HOME SUPPORT SERVICE
Estimated cost: €1.053 M

ADEQUATELY FUND, SUPPORT AND ENABLE OLDER PEOPLE TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

“ It is very difficult to live on widow's pension. The cost of groceries and heating a home are very hard to meet. ”

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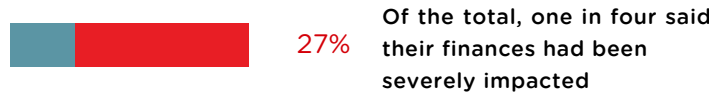
Financial issues older people are experiencing

ALONE supported over 37,000 older in 2023. Of those that we assessed, 30% indicated that they had issues with Finance. Among them, 2 out of 5 people had issues with utilities, 1 in 3 people had issues with benefits, and just under 1 in 5 had issues with entitlements.

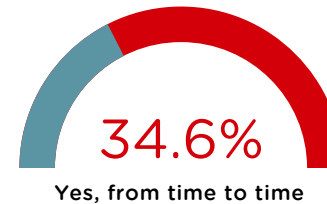
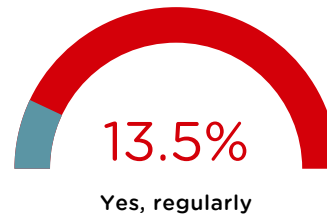
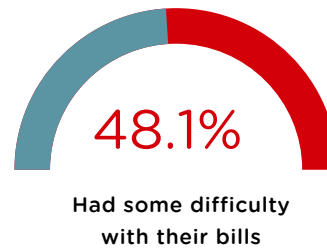
ALONE SURVEY RESULTS

ALONE recently sent out a survey to its service users, below is a snapshot into how the cost of living has affected them. This survey was taken by 185 older people who are supported by ALONE.

Have your finances been impacted by the increased cost of living?

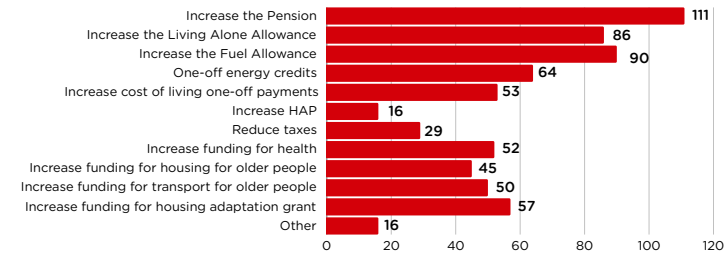


Do you find it difficult to pay your bills?



Were it not for the once-off cost of living payments, more than one third of older people living alone would have been at risk of poverty in 2023. The once-off payments helped to support older people, and their at-risk-of-poverty rate dropped to 15% (CSO, 2024). The cost-of-living payments must be built into standard welfare payments.

What changes in the Budget would help you?



“

I live on about 30 euro a week it must be a year since I could have got a week shopping I crave for so many things but can not afford to buy them it's about two and half years ago since I buy anything for myself, there are times I sit and cry what I would give to be able to go shopping and to have the money to do it.

”



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For an older person living alone (aged 70–80), by our calculations, implementing all of these increases would bring their average weekly income (which includes income from the increased maximum rate of state contributory pension, the increased living alone allowance, the increased fuel allowance, the increased telephone support allowance, the household benefits package, and the increased Christmas bonus pension payment) to €369 per week or €19,207 per year, which is over one third of average earnings (as per CSO figures (using EHECS data) from Q1 2024.)

OUR BUDGET ASKS

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

**SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE FUNDING
OF HOUSING ADAPTATION GRANTS**

**IMPROVED FUNDING MECHANISM
FOR HOUSING WITH SUPPORT**

“ We can't afford the rents that are being asked for properties and homelessness is a distinct possibility for us. ”

OUR BUDGET ASKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

**DEVELOP AND FUND THE ROLE OF A
COMMISSIONER FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

OUR BUDGET ASKS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE AND COMMUNICATIONS

**ESTABLISH EMERGENCY ENERGY
POVERTY FUND AS COMMITTED TO
PREVIOUSLY**

Estimated cost: €10 M

“ Have serious heart and lung problems and feel the cold to a great extent and have to spend a fortune on gas and that's only for bedroom and toilet. Cannot turn on radiator in front room so live in my bedroom ”

To view our full submission
visit alone.ie/publications

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