



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Scottish Child Payment



Dignity, fairness, respect.

About Scottish Child Payment

- Delivered by Social Security Scotland to eligible families who are in receipt of certain low income benefits with a child under 6.
- No cap on the number of children a family can claim for.
- Paid every four weeks, equivalent to £10 per week, per child.
 - Eligible families with one child under six will receive up to £520 per year
 - Eligible families with two children under six will receive up to £1,040 per year
 - Eligible families with three will receive up to £1,560.



Child responsibility


- To be eligible for Scottish Child Payment you need to prove you are responsible for a child under 6. This can be done through the child being named on one of the following benefits:
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Child Benefit
 - Pension Credit
 - Universal Credit
- If you are a kinship carer and your child is not named on one of the above you can demonstrate child responsibility through either a legal order or letter of support from a local authority.

Qualifying benefits

- To be eligible for Scottish Child Payment you must be in receipt of one of the following low income benefits or ‘qualifying benefits’.
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit
 - Income Support
 - Pension Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)




How can people apply?

- **Online** at mygov.scot
 - **By phone** 0800 182 2222
 - **By post** - Downloading a paper form and posting it to Social Security Scotland or clients can call us and we'll post an application form out to them.
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Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant is a package of three payments which will give extra money to parents and carers during the early years of a child's life.


The package includes:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
 - Early Learning Payment
 - School Age Payment
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Pregnancy and Baby Payment

- The Pregnancy and Baby Payment replaced the Sure Start Maternity Grant.
 - This is a £600 payment for a first child, and £300 for subsequent children. We will pay an extra £300 for a multiple birth.
 - Clients can apply if they live in Scotland, are the parent or carer of the child, and receive a qualifying benefit. Those under 18 are automatically eligible and do not have to receive a qualifying benefit.
 - Applications can be made from 24 weeks pregnant up to the day the baby is six months old.
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Early Learning Payment

- This is a £250 payment made between the ages of two, and three and a half years old. This is to help with the costs of early learning around the time a child might start nursery.
 - Clients may be eligible if they are the parent or full-time carer of the child, and in receipt of certain benefits. Those under 18 are automatically eligible and do not have to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
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School Age Payment

- The School Age Payment is a £250 payment made around the time a child normally starts Primary one, to help with the costs of a child starting school.
 - Clients may be eligible if they are the parent or full-time carer of the child, and get certain benefits. Those under 18 are automatically eligible and do not have to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
 - For a child with a date of birth between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016, applications can be made from 1 June 2020 to 28 February 2021.
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Best Start Foods

- Best Start Foods replaced the UK Government's Healthy Start paper vouchers with a new payment card.
 - It works in a similar way to a bank card and can be used to buy healthy foods including milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables, pulses and eggs.
 - Eligible families on low income benefits will get £17 on their card every four weeks during pregnancy, and for any children between one and three years old. For babies up to the age of one, the payment increases to £34.
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Funeral Support Payment

- Provides support to help people meet the costs of a funeral, and replaces the UK Government's Funeral Expense Payment in Scotland.
- Clients may be eligible if they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, have the nearest relationship to the person who has died, and they must be responsible for the payment of the funeral.
- An eligibility checker is available at the start of our online and paper application forms.
- Funeral Support Payment is a part-payment. It will cover some, but likely not all, of the funeral costs. The amount a client will receive will depend on what they have claimed and what funds were left by the person who died.



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Young Carer Grant

- This is a yearly £305.10 payment for young people aged 16 to 18 who spend an average of at least 16 hours each week caring for somebody in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
- This is a cash benefit to spend as they choose. Clients can apply if they are at school, in further education, employed or unemployed.

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Job Start Payment

- Job Start Payment is a new payment to help 16 – 24 year olds in Scotland who need support with the costs of starting a new job.
- It's a one off payment of £250, or £400 if the young person has a child. This money can be spent on anything for starting work like clothing, travel costs or lunches.
- The young person must live in Scotland at the time of the job offer and have been out of paid work and in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 6 months or more to be eligible.
- Care leavers in Scotland have a wider eligibility to apply for this payment. They must be between the age of 16 to 25 years old, only need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit at the point of the job offer, and not for the full 6 months before applying.