



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

What family benefits does Social Security Scotland deliver?

Scottish Child Payment

A payment providing £80 every four weeks for each eligible child under the age of 6.

Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment

A £642.35 payment for a first child and £321.20 for other children. Plus an extra £321.20 if you have a multiple birth. You can apply from 24 weeks of pregnancy until your baby is 6 months old.

Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment

A £267.65 payment when a child is between the ages of 2 and 3.5 years. You can still apply if your child is not taking up a place at nursery.

Best Start Grant School Age Payment

A £267.65 payment to help eligible families with the costs of starting school. Visit mygov.scot/beststart for application dates and guidance on when to apply even if you are deferring.

Best Start Foods

Money every four weeks on a pre-paid chip and pin Mastercard. The amount is £18.00 every four weeks during pregnancy and for any children between 1 and 3 years old. This payment increases to £36.00 for any child under 1.

The card can be used to buy healthy food including eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables and pulses.

Who can get these payments?

People can apply for these payments whether in work or not. People may be eligible if they, or their partner, are the parent or full-time carer of a child and if they get tax credits or certain benefits.

How do people apply?

We take applications via our freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222, by post or online at mygov.scot/benefits.

What are the qualifying benefits for these payments?

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Housing Benefit (Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods only)

For Best Start Grant and Scottish Child Payment, we do not need to know about your income. For Best Start Foods, some of the benefits have an income limit.

What evidence will be required?

Most people will be able to apply without sending any evidence. This is because we check with the Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC that you are on a qualifying benefit or tax credit.

We need evidence that the person applying is responsible for the child, usually through the child being named on a benefits claim. Kinship carers can demonstrate responsibility for a child with a certain legal order, written agreement with a local authority or in certain circumstances, a letter of support from a local authority.

Will they need their partner's information?

Yes if they live in the same household and are:

- married to each other
- civil partners of each other
- living together as if you are married.

What happens if someone's circumstances change after applying?

People need to let us know if their circumstances change at any point. This is to make sure that they are getting everything that they are entitled to. This could include changes to what benefits or tax credits someone gets or where they live.

How will people be paid?

Eligible families will be paid into their chosen account. Best Start Foods will be paid onto a card.

Do these payments affect other benefits?

No, they will not be taken into account for UK benefit and tax credit assessments.

How can people contact us?

Call us free on: 0800 182 2222



Text Relay Service: 18001 +0300 244 4000 (for the hard of hearing)



British Sign Language users: contactscotland-bsl.org



Webchat: chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot

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Scottish Child Payment information

When can I apply for Scottish Child Payment for a child aged 6-15?

On 14 November. You shouldn't apply before this. We strongly encourage people to apply on the day to ensure they get all the money they are entitled to.

Should I apply before 14 November to get my award as soon as possible?

No. If we process an application before 14 November, it will be denied. We strongly encourage people to apply on the day itself or as soon after that as possible. Your award will be backdated to the date we receive your application.

I already receive Scottish Child Payment and my children are all under 6. Do I need to make a new application?

No, you don't need to do anything. You will receive Scottish Child Payment at the new rate of £25 per child per week automatically from 14 November.

I have been receiving Scottish Child Payment but my child turns 6 before 14 November. Do I need to reapply?

Yes. You should make a new application on 14 November.

I receive Scottish Child Payment for my child aged under 6. But I also have a child aged 6 or over. What should I do?

You can add older children to your existing claim through the online Scottish Child Payment form. There's no need to do a completely new application.

On 14 November, how should I apply for Scottish Child Payment?

We strongly encourage people to apply online. If it's impossible for you to do so, then we can also take applications by post or over the phone on 0800 182 2222.

Is there a limit on the number of children for whom I can claim Scottish Child Payment?

No, there's no limit. You can apply for any number of eligible children.

I am going to be applying for Scottish Child Payment for the first time on 14 November. Will I automatically qualify for some other benefits?

From 28 November, we will award Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment automatically to eligible families in receipt of Scottish Child Payment, without the need to apply.

People can learn more about Best Start Grants including their ability to opt out of having them paid automatically on our website.

I get Bridging Payments. Will I need to apply for Scottish Child Payment?

Yes. Bridging Payments are administered completely separately to Scottish Child Payment. So, if you are eligible for Scottish Child Payment, you should apply for it in the normal way regardless of whether you get Bridging Payments. You will still get your final Bridging Payment (of £260) in December.

I am working. Does that mean I won't qualify?

No, a significant proportion of people who receive qualifying benefits such as Universal Credit or Tax Credits are in work. So long as you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit you can still be eligible for Scottish Child Payment.

I am a kinship carer, can I qualify for Scottish Child Payment?

People who care for children in their family but who aren't their parents – known as kinship carers – can qualify for Scottish Child Payment if they meet the eligibility criteria.

If I receive Scottish Child Payment, will it affect my tax payments or other benefits?

No. If you receive Scottish Child Payment, it will not affect this.

How long will it take for the money to reach my bank account?

It may take some time for us to process your payment but please be assured we will do so as quickly as we can. The money you receive should be backdated to the date we received your application. There's no need to check on progress by phone once the application is made.

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