

Grants and financial support for children and families

I have done my best to put together a list of some of the main grants and financial supports available to children and families. There is a wide range of grants available. So, I have included a link to the Disability Grant website that lists many of them.

The benefits system is changing. Universal Credit has now replaced many of the individual benefits including child tax credit and some benefits will now be administered by Social Security Scotland. This can make applying complicated, so it is important to get advice to make sure you are receiving the right benefits. I have included 2 local organisations that can support with applying for benefits and provide support on other issues. Their details are at the end of the list.

A fuller list of organisations offering advice within North Lanarkshire can be found online www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/benefits-advice/north-lanarkshire-advice-network-nlan

For a more comprehensive list of all the benefits and support provided by government look on www.mygov.scot and www.gov.uk/browse/benefits

Like so much of life now, most of the information and ways of applying are online. If you would find this a challenge then you will be pleased to hear that Community Learning and Development offer support in using computers, ipads and the internet. Contact me to sign up for support. Some of the grants give money to buy computers and tablets if you don't have one.

If you know of any grants, funding or other supports that are not listed here then please let me know so that I can add them.

Val McKernan, Community Learning and Development Worker (Schools)

Email: mckernanv@northlan.gov.uk text, phone: 07812501883

Contents

Best Start Grants	2	Bereavement Support Payment	6
Scottish Child Payment	2	Blue Badge	6
Child benefit	3	Warmer Homes Scotland	6
Child Disability Payment	3	The Family Fund	7
Carer's Allowance	3	Take a Break Scotland	7
Carer's Allowance Supplement	4	Disability Grants online directory	8
Universal Credit	4	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care	8
The Scottish Welfare Fund	4	Foodbanks	8
Free school meals and Clothing grant	5	North Lanarkshire Disability Forum	8
Self Directed Support	5	Cumbernauld Poverty Action	8
Child Winter Heating Assistance	5		

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Best Start Grants

This is a grant provided by the Scottish Government through Social Security Scotland 0800 182 2222
www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods

If you're under 18, you do not need to be on any payments or benefits to apply for Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods.

If you're a parent over 18, you can apply whether you're in work or not, as long as you're getting one of these:

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

Pregnancy and Baby Grant

You can apply from 24 weeks pregnant to the child is 6months. £600 is paid for your first child, £300 paid for each following child. Extra payments are available for twins and triplets

Early Learning Payment

You can apply when your child is aged between 2 years old and 3 years 6 months old. The grant is £250 for each child.

School age payment

For children born between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017 you can apply between 1 June 2021 and 28 February 2022. The grant is £250 for each child

The Best Start Foods card

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that you can use to buy healthy foods for children under 3. You can use the card in shops and online.

You can apply for Best Start Foods when you're pregnant, or any time up to your child turning 3 years old.

The payments of Best Start Foods are:

£17 every 4 weeks during pregnancy

£34 every 4 weeks from your child being born up until they're a 1 year old

£17 every 4 weeks between the ages of 1 and 3

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Scottish Child Payment

Apply through Social Security Scotland 0800 182 2222
www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment

You can apply whether you're in work or not, as long as you're getting one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

It's a weekly payment of £10 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 6 years of age.

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details

Child benefit

0300 200 3100

www.gov.uk/child-benefit

You can get Child Benefit for any of your children who are under 16 and live in the UK. If they stay in most types of school, college or training after that age you can get Child Benefit until they're 20. Only one person can claim Child Benefit for a child. If you get Child Benefit, you will get £20.70 per week for your eldest child. You will get £13.70 per week for every other child.

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details

Child Disability Payment

Social Security Scotland 0800 182 2222

www.mygov.scot/disability-living-allowance-children

Starting Autumn 2021

Child Disability Payment will replace DLA for children in Scotland. There will be no change to the amount you are paid.

Currently the weekly rates are	Care component	Mobility component
	Lowest £23.60	Lower £23.60
	Middle £59.70	Higher £62.25
	Highest £89.15	

Children and young people in Scotland will continue to get Child Disability Payment until they are 18.

There is no need to reapply if your child currently receives DLA.

Social Security Scotland will write to you when it is time for your payments to be transferred.

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Carer's Allowance

Carers Allowance Unit 0800 731 0297

www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

You could get £67.25 a week if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get certain benefits. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for. You do not get paid extra if you care for more than one person. If someone else also cares for the same person as you, only one of you can claim Carer's Allowance.

To be eligible:

- you're 16 or over
- you spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone
- you're not in full-time education
- you're not studying for 21 hours a week or more
- your earnings are £128 or less a week after tax, National Insurance and expenses

In addition, the person you provide care for must receive either Personal Independence Payment - daily living component or Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate.

Check website for all eligibility criteria.

When you claim Carer's Allowance your other benefit payments may change, but your total benefit payments will usually either go up or stay the same.

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Carer's Allowance Supplement

Social Security Scotland 0800 182 2222

www.mygov.scot/carers-allowance-supplement

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date.

Carer's Allowance Supplement is paid 2 times a year. From April 2021 the rate will be £231.40 per payment.

The next 2 rounds of payments are:

- £231.40 from June 2021 - you'll get this payment if you're getting Carer's Allowance on 12 April 2021
- £231.40 from December 2021 - you'll get this payment if you're getting Carer's Allowance on 11 October 2021

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Universal Credit

Universal Credit helpline Telephone: 0800 328 5644

www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Universal Credit is replacing the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit

If you are already claiming any of these benefits, you can carry on getting them. If you have any change of circumstances that means your existing claims for these benefits ends and you will need to apply for Universal Credit.

There are additional elements that can be added to your basic allowance. Your household may qualify for more than one of these:

- Child element
- Carer element
- Childcare costs element
- Limited capability for work-related activity element (LCWRA element)
- Housing costs element

In the future, everyone will be moved on to Universal Credit. At the moment, the Department for Work and Pensions plans to complete this by the end of 2024.

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details

The Scottish Welfare Fund

0300 555 0405

email swf@northlan.gov.uk for Crisis or Community Care Grants

selfisolationsupportgrant@northlan.gov.uk for Self-isolation grants

The Scottish Welfare Fund helps people and families on low incomes who are in crisis or need help to set up or remain in the community. You can apply for a:

Crisis Grant - to help you cope with unexpected expenses and disasters, for example a fire or flood, or if any money has been lost or stolen.

Community Care Grant - to help vulnerable people set up home, when moving from an 'unsettled way of life' or continue to live independently within their community. They can also help families who are facing exceptional pressures.

Self-Isolation Grant COVID-19 - the purpose of the grant is to assist people aged 16 and over in receipt of low incomes to self-isolate to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This grant should support people to be able to afford to comply with the Test & Protect or equivalent service's requirement for them to self-isolate. You may be eligible for a £500 payment if you meet all of the qualifying criteria.

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Free school meals and Clothing grant

Provided through North Lanarkshire Council email: fsm@northlan.gov.uk

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants

Free school meals for all primary school children will be phased in from August 2021.

In the meantime or if you have children attending secondary you can apply for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits and your child attend a North Lanarkshire school:

- Income support
- Job seekers allowance (income based)
- Employment and support allowance (income related)
- Universal credit (max. monthly income of £610)
- Child tax credit (gross annual income less than £16,105 and no element of working tax credit)
- In receipt of both maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit (gross maximum income below £7330)
- Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Clothing grant payments of £110 per child
If you receive any of the following benefits and your child attends a North Lanarkshire school then can apply for a clothing grant:

- Income support
- Job seekers allowance (income based)
- Employment and support allowance (income related)
- Universal credit (maximum monthly income of £610)
- Housing benefit
- Council tax reduction (council tax discount or exemption does not apply)

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details

Self Directed support

North Lanarkshire Council Social Work Cumbernauld Locality

Email: CumbRecServices@northlan.gov.uk phone: 01236 638700

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/children-and-families/self-directed-support-for-children

If you are caring for a child with an additional support need you can apply to have an assessment of their needs as well as your own.

Assessments are done through Social Work and depending on needs assessed a budget may be allocated. There are 4 options for how this budget can be managed.

Option 1 is where you select and arrange the support that you want and that's sometimes called a direct payment. Option 2 is where you select the support you want and another organisation arranges it on your behalf.

Option 3 is where you ask your Local Authority to select and arrange the support that's right for you.

Option 4 is a mix of any of the three options.

Name of grant/support and contact details, who can apply and other details

Child Winter Heating Assistance

Social Security Scotland 0800 182 2222

www.mygov.scot/child-winter-heating-assistance

To qualify the child needs to get the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance for children
And be resident in Scotland

It's a payment of £200 for children and young people up to the age of 18.

There is no need to apply, this grant is applied directly through DLA

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details										
Blue Badge Blue Badge Team North Lanarkshire Council 01698 403160 www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/blue-badge-scheme Full criteria and to apply online www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge										
A Blue Badge can give you exemption from some parking restrictions and access to designated parking spaces. The Blue Badge scheme is for people with severe mobility problems which make them unable or virtually unable to walk or those who are registered blind. Blue Badges can be considered for people with a diagnosed mental or cognitive disorder, which means they have little or no awareness of danger from traffic. If you are applying under this criteria, then you should contact your local Council.	Blue Badges can be issued to adults, children or to organisations which provide care. They can be used by badge holders who are drivers or travelling as passengers in any vehicle. There is a £20 administration fee for the blue badge.									
Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details										
Bereavement Support Payment Bereavement Service helpline 0800 731 0469 www.gov.uk/when-someone-dies										
You may be able to get Bereavement Support Payment (BSP) if your husband, wife or civil partner died in the last 21 months. You must claim within 3 months of your partner’s death to get the full amount. You can claim up to 21 months after their death but you’ll get fewer monthly payments. You could be eligible if your partner either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">paid National Insurance contributions for at least 25 weeks in one tax year since 6 April 1975died because of an accident at work or a disease caused by work When they died you must have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none">under State Pension ageliving in the UK or a country that pays bereavement benefits	You’ll get a first payment and then up to 18 monthly payments. There are 2 rates. <table><tr><td></td><td>First payment</td><td>Monthly payment</td></tr><tr><td>Higher rate</td><td>£3,500</td><td>£350</td></tr><tr><td>Lower rate</td><td>£2,500</td><td>£100</td></tr></table> If you get Child Benefit (or if you do not get it but are entitled to it), you’ll get the higher rate. If you do not get Child Benefit, you’ll get the lower rate unless you were pregnant when your husband, wife or civil partner died.		First payment	Monthly payment	Higher rate	£3,500	£350	Lower rate	£2,500	£100
	First payment	Monthly payment								
Higher rate	£3,500	£350								
Lower rate	£2,500	£100								
Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details										
Warmer Homes Scotland 0808 808 2282										
To qualify you need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">be a homeowner or private sector tenanthave lived in the house for 12 monthsYou also need to meet one of their criteria which includes being in receipt of benefits. A full list of who qualifies is available on the website.	The scheme helps people in need to make their homes warmer and cost less to heat. Most have received measures valued at over £4,000. The most common measures installed are a new gas boiler (to make creating heat more efficient) and/or insulation (to keep the heat in better).									

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details

The Family Fund

01904 550055

www.familyfund.org.uk

You can apply to Family Fund if:

You are the parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 0-17 who lives with you

You are currently living in the UK and done so for at least six months, or three months if your child is less than six months old. You are eligible to work and apply for public funds

Your child is not in Local Authority care

You have evidence of entitlement to any one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit.

Your child or young person has a high level of additional support needs arising from a long term disability or disabling condition or a serious or life limiting illness. By long term we mean lasting or likely to last 12 months or more.

We help families across the UK who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under.

Our popular grants include washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing, and computers. We offer grants for many more things too, and are happy for you to contact us with requests for things that you can prove will help meet your child's additional needs.

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details

Take a Break Scotland

takeabreakscotland.org.uk

You can apply if you:

- have lived in Scotland continuously for six months or longer
- are a UK resident and have recourse to public funds
- are caring for a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 0-20 years who lives at home with you
- Your child or young person is not subject to a care order.

Applications can only be made in June of each year.

Grants can be used in lots of different ways that best suits your own family circumstances, such as:

- A break away, weekend theatre break or city breaks
- A break for the carer and the rest of the family while a disabled child is in respite care
- Towards the costs of an extra carer when on an outing so a carer can relax
- Entrance costs to theme parks, zoos or music festivals
- Gym membership fees for the carer or the family
- Travel costs
- Camping equipment so a family can enjoy multiple short breaks
- Dance or drama clubs, horse riding or swimming lessons
- And much more.

Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details
<p>Disability Grants online directory www.disability-grants.org</p>
<p>A very comprehensive list of grants and trusts offering support to children and adults with an additional support need. There is a section on Dreams charities who offer the chance for severely ill, disabled or terminally ill children to have a dream come true.</p>
Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details
<p>Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care www.cumbernauldkilsythcare.org.uk</p>
<p>Provides a baby bank, school uniform and clothing bank to those families facing financial pressures. The Baby Bank help is primarily in the form of a 'starter pack' for babies, which is a gift from the local community. However, they also provide other items for young children, based on referrals. The School Uniform Bank provides school uniform and everyday clothes and shoes free of charge. Packs provided to children and young people consist of new and pre-loved items. Families can be referred through myself, the school, their health visitor and other agencies</p>
Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details
<p>Foodbanks</p>
<p>There are a number of foodbanks across the area supporting people and families who are experiencing financial pressures. Families can be referred through myself, the school, their health visitor and other agencies. The foodbanks supply food, toiletries, household items, nappies, baby wipes and pet food.</p>
Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details
<p>North Lanarkshire Disability Forum www.nldforum.org.uk 01698 275 710 info@nldforum.org.uk</p>
<p>NLDF can support with applying for benefits and self directed support as well as providing information about wider community supports. We aim to provide up-to-date information that supports people with a disability and their carers to live as independent a life as possible. We offer support that promotes good mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. We aim to help empower people to have choice and control.</p>
Name of grant/support, contact details, who can apply and other details
<p>Cumbernauld Poverty Action www.facebook.com/Cumbernauldpovertyaction 01236 729520</p>
<p>Cumbernauld Poverty Action offers free and confidential advice regarding welfare rights, budgeting and housing issue including helping apply for benefits.</p>