



# What family benefits does Social Security Scotland deliver?





**Scottish Child Payment** is a payment per child to help with the costs of supporting a family. It is £106.80 every 4 weeks. Children under 16 are eligible.

**Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment** is money towards the costs of pregnancy or looking after a baby. It is £754.65 for a first child and £377.35 for subsequent children. You can apply from the end of the 24th week of pregnancy until the baby is 6 months old. In some circumstances, you may be able to get £754.65 for subsequent children. These circumstances include:



- People forced to leave home due to domestic abuse.
- Some people who have been granted refugee status.

- Some carers who took on responsibility for a child over the age of 1



### **Best Start Grant Early Learning**

**Payment** is money per child to help with the costs of early learning. It is a one-off payment of £314.45. You can apply when a child is between 2 and 3.5 years old. You can still apply if your child is not taking a place at nursery.

### **Best Start Grant School Age**



**Payment** is money per child to help with the costs of preparing for school. It is a one-off payment of £314.45. You can apply in the year a child is first old enough to start school. You can still apply and get the payment if a child is deferring starting school.



**Best Start Foods** is money on a prepaid chip and pin card. You can use it to buy healthy food, including eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables and pulses. It is £19.80 every 4 weeks during pregnancy. It is £42.40 every 4 weeks until the child's 1st birthday. It is £21.20 every 4 weeks for any child from age 1 until they turn 3. You can apply from pregnancy until a child turns 3.

We can now make automatic payments for certain benefits without the need to apply. If you get Scottish Child Payment and your child meets the age conditions, we will also check if you can get:



- Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment.
- Best Start Grant School Age Payment.



You can apply for these payments if you're working or not. You may be eligible if you or your partner are the parent or full-time carer and you get tax credits or certain other benefits.



For Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods, people who are under 18 don't need to get any benefits to apply. If you are 18 or 19 and don't get any benefits or payments, you can still apply for Best Start Grant or Best Start Foods if your parent or carer gets certain benefits.



You can find out more and apply online at **[mygov.scot/familybenefits](https://mygov.scot/familybenefits)**. You can apply in person, over the phone or ask for a paper application form by calling Social Security Scotland free on **0800 182 2222**.

The qualifying benefits for these family payments are:

- 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).

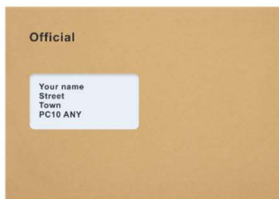


We don't need to know about your income when assessing eligibility for any of the payments.



Most people will be able to apply without sending any evidence. This is because we check with 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 prove responsibility for a child through:



- A certain legal order.
- Written agreement with a local authority.
- In certain circumstances, letter of support from a local authority.



You will need your partner's information if you both live in the same household and are:



- Married to each other.
- Civil partners of each other.
- Living together as if you are married.

You need to let us know if your circumstances change at any point. This is to make sure you are getting everything you are entitled to. This could include changes to what benefits or tax credits you get or where you live.



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







These family payments do not affect other benefits. They will not be taken into account for UK benefit and tax credit assessments.



Web chat with us at  
**[chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot](https://chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot)**



British Sign Language users can contact us at **[contactscotland-bsl.org](https://contactscotland-bsl.org)**



Visit the **Cost of Living** website for information on support available for families:  
**[gov.scot/costoflivingsupport](https://gov.scot/costoflivingsupport)**