



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

ParentClub.scot

Help at every step

Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Grant
and Best Start Foods



 0800 182 2222

mygov.scot

What is Scottish Child Payment?

It is a new payment of £40 paid every four weeks for each eligible child under six. We are taking applications now before the benefit starts on 15 February 2021. We are encouraging parents to beat the rush as we expect a huge demand.

You can apply for the Scottish Child Payment, together with Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods, on a combined form.

What is the Best Start Grant?

It is a package of three one-off payments to help at key stages of a child's life. Each payment gives extra money to parents and carers who get certain benefits or tax credits* at key stages of a child's life.

What are the three payments?

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment is £600 for a first child and £300 for other children. You can apply from when you are 24 weeks pregnant up until the baby is six months old.

- Early Learning Payment is a £250 payment made when the child is between the ages of two and three years and six months.
- School Age Payment is a £250 payment made around the time a child normally starts Primary 1.

Who can get it?

You can apply if you live in Scotland whether you are in work or not. You may be eligible if you are the parent or carer of the child and get certain benefits or tax credits.*

*Universal Credit (UC), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit. You don't have to be getting one of these if you are under 18, or are aged 18 or 19 and are dependent on someone like a parent or carer who is claiming benefits or tax credits for you.

What is Best Start Foods?

Best Start Foods is for pregnant women and families on certain benefits and tax credits.* The payment is made onto a card and can be used to help buy healthy foods, as well as milk and first Infant formula. The card works like a bank card. It can be used to pay for food in supermarkets and local food shops, as long as they have a card reader. It's contactless and can be used online.

How much do you get?

- For the duration of your pregnancy to when your child is born, you'll get £17.00 every four weeks.
- From birth to when your child turns one, you'll get £34.00 every four weeks.
- From one until your child turns three, you'll get £17.00 every four weeks.

Who can get it?

You can apply for Best Start Foods if you are pregnant or the parent or carer of a child.**

If you are under 18, you may be eligible for Best Start Foods during pregnancy and up until your child turns one without having to be on any benefits.

**Income support, Income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit (CTC) up to a maximum income of £16,190 per annum, Universal Credit (UC) with an income limit of £610 per month, both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and income under £7,320, or the four week run, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit – weekly income of £311 and under.



I have more than one child

If you have more than one child, please enter the details of all your children when applying for any of our parental benefits, as we will automatically check what other parental benefits you may be eligible for when processing your application.

Remember, you will need to apply at each key stage in your child's life - you won't automatically get the next payment.



How do I find out more and apply?

Visit **mygov.scot/beststart** to apply online, or call our freephone helpline on **0800 182 2222** to apply over the phone or to get a paper application form.



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



British Sign Language users: contactscotland-bsl.org/device-direct/



Social Security Scotland