



Social Security  
Scotland

Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

# Carer Support Payment

## What is Carer Support Payment?

In Scotland, Carer Support Payment is replacing Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Carer Support Payment is money for people who look after someone who is disabled or who has a long-term health condition.

The benefit is being introduced in phases. People living in the local authority areas of Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and the Western Isles have been able to apply for Carer Support Payment since 20 November 2023.

Carer Support Payment will be available across Scotland in Autumn 2024.

## Who can apply?

To be eligible, a carer must

- be 16 or over
- provide 35 hours or more of unpaid care a week to someone of any age who is getting certain
- disability benefits
- earn £151 per week or less on average after some deductions
- live in an area where the benefit is available

## How much is Carer Support Payment and when will it be paid?

Carer Support Payment will be paid at the same rate as Carer's Allowance. This is currently £81.90 per week or £327.60 every 4 weeks.

## Can someone get Carer Support Payment if they receive other benefits?

People can get Carer Support Payment at the same time as other benefits. If they get 'means-tested' benefits such as Universal Credit, Carer Support Payment may affect the amount they get. They'll usually be better off overall because they can get extra amounts in these benefits for being a carer.

If a carer gets 'income replacement' benefits such as State Pension or 'new-style' Employment and Support Allowance, this may affect the amount of Carer Support Payment they can get.

If their benefit is worth the same as or more than Carer Support Payment, they may have 'underlying entitlement'. This means they will not receive any money in Carer Support Payment, but might be able to get additional benefits or top ups to existing benefits, including Pension Credit.

## **Does getting Carer Support Payment impact the benefits of the cared for person?**

The disability benefits of the person being cared for (including Adult Disability Payment, Child Disability Payment, Personal Independence Payment, and Disability Living Allowance) should not be affected because their carer gets Carer Support Payment.

If the person being cared for gets a Severe Disability Premium - an extra amount included in some means-tested benefits - they will usually stop getting this if their carer receives Carer Support Payment. They may also stop getting reduced Council Tax.

## **What if someone already gets Carer's Allowance from the DWP?**

People who live in Scotland and already get Carer's Allowance do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. Their award will be moved from Carer's Allowance to Carer Support Payment automatically. They will get a letter to let them know when this is happening.

## **Can students get Carer Support Payment?**

All student carers aged 20 or over can apply for Carer Support Payment. Students aged 16-19 who are studying certain courses full-time, including Nationals or Highers at secondary school or college, will not be eligible.

More students in Scotland will be eligible for Carer Support Payment than Carer's Allowance, the benefit it replaces. Carer's Allowance is only available to students studying part-time.

If a student receives Carer's Allowance and wants to study full-time, they may be able to apply for Carer Support Payment instead when it becomes available where they live.

## **Additional financial support**

Carers getting Carer Support Payment, or Carer's Allowance from the DWP, on a certain date, will also get Carer's Allowance Supplement. This is an automatic payment of £288.60 paid 2 times a year.

## **How should people apply?**


People can find out more and apply online at [mygov.scot/carersupport](https://mygov.scot/carersupport). People can also apply in person, over the phone or ask for a paper application form by post by calling us free on **0800 182 2222**.


Support to apply is available from our specially trained client advisers in every local authority in Scotland. Carers can call us to book an appointment at a location and time that suits them either in their local community or at home, via video call or by telephone.

## **Other support for carers**

Find out about other support that may be available to carers at [mygov.scot/carersupport](https://mygov.scot/carersupport)

## **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](https://contactscotland-bsl.org)

 Webchat: [chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot](https://chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot)