

Carer Support Payment





Carer Support Payment has replaced Carer's Allowance from the DWP in Scotland.



Carer Support Payment is money from **Social Security Scotland**. It is paid to people who look after someone who is:

- disabled, or
- has a long-term health condition



To be eligible for Carer Support Payment, a carer must:

- be 16 or over
- do 35 hours or more of unpaid care a week to someone who is getting certain disability benefits
- earn £196 a week or less (on average, after some deductions)



Carer Support Payment is £83.30 a week or £333.20 every 4 weeks. Carers who are getting paid to work can get Carer Support Payment if their 'take-home pay' is less than £196 a week.

'Take-home pay' is pay after income tax, National Insurance, and some expenses, including some care costs and pension contributions are taken off. If a carer's take-home pay is sometimes more than £196 and sometimes less, Social Security Scotland can work out how much their average take home pay is.



People can get Carer Support Payment at the same time as other benefits. Getting Carer Support Payment could affect the amount someone gets in means-tested benefits like Universal Credit. They will usually still be better off overall though. This is because they could get extra money in means-tested benefits for being a carer.



The amount of Carer Support Payment someone gets could also be affected if a carer gets income replacement benefits like:

- State Pension, or
- 'New-style' Employment and Support Allowance



If someone's benefit is worth the same as or more than Carer Support Payment, they may have 'underlying entitlement'.



‘Underlying entitlement’ means someone will not get any Carer Support Payment, but might be able to get:

- other benefits, or
- top ups to benefits they already get, like Pension Credit



A carer getting Carer Support Payment should not affect the disability benefits of the person they care for. These disability benefits include:

- Adult Disability Payment
- Child Disability Payment
- Personal Independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance



Severe Disability Premium is an extra amount included in some means-tested benefits.



If someone a carer looks after gets a Severe Disability Premium, they will usually stop getting this when their carer gets Carer Support Payment. They may also stop getting reduced Council Tax



Someone living in Scotland and already getting Carer's Allowance does not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. They will automatically be moved to Carer Support Payment. They will get a letter to let them know it is happening.



All students over 20 years old who care for someone can apply for Carer Support Payment. Students that are 16-19 years can get Carer Support Payment if they are studying part time. If a carer is studying Nationals or Highers at secondary school or college, they will not be eligible, unless they are able to get other benefits



Carer's Allowance is only available to students studying part-time. This means more students will be able to get Carer Support Payment, which replaces Carer's Allowance.



If a student gets Carer's Allowance and wants to study full-time, they may be able to apply for Carer Support Payment instead. They can do this when it becomes available in the part of Scotland they live in.



Carers getting Carer Support Payment, or Carer's Allowance from the DWP, on a certain date, will also get Carer's Allowance Supplement.



Carer's Allowance Supplement is an automatic payment of £270.50. It is paid twice a year.



Find out more and apply online at **mygov.scot/carers-support-payment**.

Or apply in person, over the phone, or ask for a paper application form by calling **0800 182 2222**.



Social Security Scotland has people who can help someone apply in every local authority in Scotland.



Carers can call us to book an appointment at a location and time that suits them. This appointment can be in a carer's local community or at home. The appointment can be done over video call or phone.



Find out about other support carers can get at **mygov.scot/carersupport**.



Call Social Security Scotland for free on
0800 182 2222



Web chat with us at
chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot



British Sign Language users can contact
us at contactscotland-bsl.org