



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment

What is the Best Start Grant?

It is a package of three payments that will give extra money to parents and carers during the early years of a child's life.

What is the Pregnancy and Baby Payment?

It is a £600 payment for a first child and £300 for other children. There will be an extra £300 if you have a multiple birth. It will help with expenses in pregnancy or having a new child, for example maternity clothes, a pram or additional heating.

Who can get it?

You can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment 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 you 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.

To check if you are entitled to any of these benefits, call 0800 085 7145 for a free and confidential chat with the Money Talk Team.

If you are under 18 you are automatically eligible and don't have to be on a qualifying benefit.

You would also be eligible if you are 18 or 19, in full time education or training and dependent on someone else like a parent or carer who is claiming child benefit, child tax credit, pension credit or universal credit for you.

How many children qualify for Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment in each family?

Every child in a qualifying family will get a payment.

How do you apply?

You can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from 24 weeks pregnant up to the day your baby is 6 months old. We take applications via our freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222, by post or online at mygov.scot/best-start-grant.



What evidence will be needed to check my pregnancy?

Most people should be able to apply for a Pregnancy and Baby Payment without sending us evidence.

In some circumstances, we will have to ask you to send us additional information to process your application.**

**MAT B1 form or a birth certificate, a legal order from a court or children's hearing, evidence of address i.e. utility or Council Tax bill.

Do I need my partner's information?

Yes if you live in the same household and are:

- married to each other
- civil partners of each other
- living together as if you are married.

How long after applying will I have to wait to get my payment?

It can take between 14 to 21 days to receive a payment. If we need any more information or supportive evidence to check eligibility it could take longer.

How will I be paid?

You will be paid in cash in to your chosen account. You do not need to pay the money back.

What can you use the money for?

It is up to you how you decide to use this money. You can use it for anything from maternity clothes, a cot or pram. You do not need to keep receipts.

Does it affect other benefits?

No, the Pregnancy and Baby Payment will not be taken into account for UK benefit and tax credit assessments.

Will kinship carers/adoptive parents get the Pregnancy and Baby Payment?

You can apply if you have taken responsibility for a baby under the age of one, if you are in receipt of Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit (CTC) or Universal Credit (UC) child element for the child that lives with you. If you are not getting any of these benefits we will need to see a legal order placing the child with you.

What happens if my baby is stillborn or dies before it is six months old? Would I need to repay it?

No, you will qualify for a payment if you were 24 weeks pregnant or apply within six months from the day your baby was born.