

## Spread the Word about changes to Scottish Child Payment and introduction of automatic payments

### Website/Newsletter article

You can add this news story on your organisation's website or newsletter to tell people about changes to Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants.

### Scottish Child Payment extends to under 16 year olds and automatic payments for some Best Start Grants begins

[Scottish Child Payment](#) is open for applications for all eligible children under the age of 16 and has increased from £20 to £25 per week.

The payment, which is £100 paid every four weeks, provides direct financial support to eligible families to help with the costs of caring for a child. It's up to people what they choose to spend the money on, but they could use Scottish Child Payment for things like:

- travel costs
- childcare
- family days out.

People with a child over the age of 6 who is not in receipt of Scottish Child Payment will need to apply for the first time.

If families have a child under 6 already getting the payment, and they also have children aged between 6 and 15, they will be able to add them to their existing claim using an online form. They do not need to do a completely new application

From 28 November, Social Security Scotland will automatically pay Best Start Grant Early Learning and School Age Payments to parents who already receive Scottish Child Payment when their children become eligible. If people want to opt out of these automatic payments, they can call Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222.

Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grants do not affect any other UK or Scottish Government benefits that people currently get. These payments are per child per household and there is no limit to the number of children people can apply for.

Qualifying benefits for these 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)

Eligible families can apply online, over the phone, by post or in-person. Find out more at [mygov.scot/fivefamilypayments](https://mygov.scot/fivefamilypayments) or call Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222.