



Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

# What family benefits does Social Security Scotland deliver?

## **Scottish Child Payment**

A payment providing £80 every four weeks for each eligible child under the age of 6.

## **Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment**

A £642.35 payment for a first child and £321.20 for other children. Plus an extra £321.20 if you have a multiple birth. You can apply from 24 weeks of pregnancy until your baby is 6 months old.

## **Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment**

A £267.65 payment when a child is between the ages of 2 and 3.5 years. You can still apply if your child is not taking up a place at nursery.

## **Best Start Grant School Age Payment**

A £267.65 payment to help eligible families with the costs of starting school. Visit [mygov.scot/beststart](https://mygov.scot/beststart) for application dates and guidance on when to apply even if you are deferring.

## **Best Start Foods**

Money every four weeks on a pre-paid chip and pin Mastercard. The amount is £18.00 every four weeks during pregnancy and for any children between 1 and 3 years old. This payment increases to £36.00 for any child under 1.

The card can be used to buy healthy food including eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables and pulses.

## **Who can get these payments?**

People can apply for these payments whether in work or not. People may be eligible if they, or their partner, are the parent or full-time carer of a child and if they get tax credits or certain benefits.

## **How do people apply?**

We take applications via our freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222, by post or online at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits).

## What are the qualifying benefits for these payments?

- 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)

For Best Start Grant and Scottish Child Payment, we do not need to know about your income. For Best Start Foods, some of the benefits have an income limit.

## What evidence will be required?

Most people will be able to apply without sending any evidence. This is because we check with the Department for Work and Pensions and HMRC that you are on a qualifying benefit or tax credit.

We need evidence that the person applying is responsible for the child, usually through the child being named on a benefits claim. Kinship carers can demonstrate responsibility for a child with a certain legal order, written agreement with a local authority or in certain circumstances, a letter of support from a local authority.

## Will they need their partner's information?

Yes if they live in the same household and are:

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

## What happens if someone's circumstances change after applying?

People need to let us know if their circumstances change at any point. This is to make sure that they are getting everything that they are entitled to. This could include changes to what benefits or tax credits someone gets or where they live.





## How will people be paid?

Eligible families will be paid into their chosen account. Best Start Foods will be paid onto a card.

## Do these payments affect other benefits?

No, they will not be taken into account for UK benefit and tax credit assessments.

## 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)