

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. This replaces the Sure Start Maternity Grant.

Can I get it?

You can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment whether you are in work or not.

You may be eligible if you are the mother of the child, her partner, or you have a young mother dependent on you, and you get certain benefits.*

You do not have to be on these benefits if you are:

- under 18
- 18 or 19 and in full time education or training and dependent on someone else i.e. a parent or carer who is claiming child benefit, child tax credit or universal credit for you.

Young parents have a choice about whether they apply in their own right or the person they are dependent on applies.

* 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. If you are not sure if you are entitled to any of these benefits, call 0800 085 7145 for a free Financial Health check.

When can I apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment?

You can apply when you reach 24 weeks in your pregnancy up to when your baby is six months old.

How can I apply?

We will be taking applications via our freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222, by post or online at mygov.scot/pregnancy-and-baby-grant.

Do I need my partner's information?

Yes, if you live in the same household and are:

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

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.

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

You should receive your money within 5-10 days of receiving a correctly completed application form, along with any evidence that is required.

Is the money paid to me directly or is this a voucher scheme?

We will pay the money directly to your chosen account. It is not a voucher scheme and it is up to you how you spend the money on whatever you or your child needs.

Do I need to pay this payment back?

This is not a loan and does not have to be repaid.

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.

How many children qualify for Best Start Grant in each family?

There is no limit on the number of children we will support.

The Pregnancy and Baby Payment is part of the Best Start Grant, a package of three payments that will give extra money to parents and carers during the early years of a child's life. The two other payments will be available by Summer 2019 and include:

- **Early Learning Payment** - £250 to help with costs during early years
- **School Age Payment** - £250 to help with the costs of preparing for school.

We will use the same eligibility criteria for the Early Learning and School Age payments. These payments will be available to all families who are eligible when they apply and not just those who received a Pregnancy & Baby payment.

Each of the three payments needs a separate application. Where we know that someone has had a payment for a child before, we plan to get in touch and let them know that they may qualify for another payment when one is due.

Who is Social Security Scotland?

Social Security Scotland is the new service that has been created by the Scottish Government to deliver a number of benefits. These benefits will transfer from the UK Government to the Scottish Government in stages over the next four years. At the end of this process we will be delivering benefits for people on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and to help people heat their homes.

You can find out more about Social Security Scotland online at socialsecurity.gov.scot

For information on Best Start Grant please visit mygov.scot/pregnancy-and-baby-payment or call 0800 182 2222.

mygov.scot

This flyer can be provided in audio, Braille, easy read, large print or alternative languages by calling 0800 0182 2222.



Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Could you get £600 for your first child and £300 for all other children?

Find out if you're eligible for Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment by calling 0800 182 2222 or visiting mygov.scot/pregnancy-and-baby-payment



Dignity,
fairness,
respect.

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