

## Best Start Grant

### Pregnancy and Baby Payment



The Best Start Grant is three payments of extra money for parents and carers. You can use this during the early years of a child's life.



The Pregnancy and Baby Payment is a **£600** payment for a first child. For any other children you have you will get **£300**. If you have a multiple birth you will get an extra **£300**.



It is to help with costs in pregnancy or having a baby for things like:

- maternity clothes
- a pram
- additional heating



You can apply if you:

- live in Scotland
- work
- do not work



A parent or full-time carer of a child might be able to apply. You need to be getting one of these benefits to apply:

- Universal Credit (UC)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance



- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- Working Tax Credit



If you are under 18 you can apply without being on any of the benefits already mentioned.



If you are 18 or 19 and you are still at school, college or in training you might be able to apply If your parent or carer is claiming one of these benefits for you:



- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit



You can telephone the Money Talk Team on 0800 085 7145. It is free to call. Your call is also confidential.



If you qualify for this payment you will get it for every child you have.



You can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from 24 weeks pregnant up to the day your baby is 6 months old.



You can apply on the freephone helpline  
**0800 182 222**  
You can also apply by post or online at  
**mygov.scot/best-start-grant**



Most people will not need to send us anything to prove they can apply. Sometimes we might ask you to send us more information to process your application. This could be

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



If you are:

- Married
  - In a civil partnership
  - Live together as if you are married
- we will need your partners' information.



It will take 14 - 21 days to get your payment. You will be paid into your bank account. You do not need to pay the money back or keep receipts. You can decide what to use the money for. For example, you could use it for:



- maternity clothes
- a cot
- a pram



Kinship carers or adoptive parents can get the Pregnancy and Baby Payment. You need to have taken responsibility for a baby under the age of one.

You also need to be getting one of the following benefits:



- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- 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.



If your baby is stillborn or dies before it is six months old, you do not need to need to repay the money. You will still qualify for a payment if you were 24 weeks pregnant. You will qualify if you applied within six months from the day your baby was born.



If you need this information in other languages or formats call:

**0800 182 222**