



Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

# Scottish Child Payment

£40 every four weeks to help with the costs of having a child.



**We're  
taking  
applications  
now!**

**mygov.scot**

**☎ 0800 182 2222**



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# Scottish Child Payment

## What is Scottish Child Payment?

It's a new payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits to help towards the costs of looking after a child. It's £40 paid every four weeks for each child under six.

It opens on Monday 15 February 2021 but we are taking applications now to help us manage demand.

## Who can get it?

People can apply for Scottish Child Payment whether in work or not.

People may be eligible if they, or their partner, are the parent or full-time carer of a child who will be aged under six on 15 February 2021 and if they get certain benefits or tax credits.\*

\*Child Tax Credit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

## How many children can qualify for Scottish Child Payment per household?

Every child under six in a qualifying family will get a payment.

## How do people apply?

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

## Why are you asking people to apply now?

We are expecting a huge demand for this new payment. Encouraging people to apply now means we can check that we have all the information and evidence we need to make a decision once the benefit starts on Monday 15 February.

## What evidence will be required?

We need evidence that the person applying is responsible for a child under six, usually through the child being named on a benefits claim. If more than one person applies for the same child we have a process for deciding who gets the payment, prioritising the person who the child lives with for the majority of the time.

Kinship carers can demonstrate responsibility for a child with a legal order or 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.

**What if the child turns six before Monday 15 February 2021?**

Children who will be six years old or older on Monday 15 February will not be eligible.

**When should people expect to get a decision?**

We'll start writing to people following Monday 15 February – the time this will take will depend on the demand and whether or not we need to ask people for more evidence.

This letter will tell them how much money they'll get in their first payment and when to expect this.

**When will people get their first payments?**

We will make the first payments to eligible families from the week after the benefit opens. Not everyone will get their payment on the same day and not everyone will be paid from this week. When someone gets paid will depend on how many applications we get and the process each individual application goes through.

If someone applied before Monday 15 February 2021, this will be the date that their payment will be calculated from. If they apply after this date, it will be calculated from the date that they applied.

Payments will be made every four weeks following the first payment.

**How will people be paid?**

Eligible families will be paid into their chosen account. They can contact us if they wish to change their chosen account.

**What can people use the money for?**

It is up to the person on how they decide to use this money to help support their family.

**Does it affect other benefits?**

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



## Spread the Word about Scottish Child Payment

### Website/Newsletter article

You can add this news story on your organisation's website

### Scottish Child Payment is now open for applications

Scottish Child Payment is a new payment for families on tax credits or certain benefits to help towards the costs of looking after a child. It's £40 paid every four weeks for each child under six.

The payment starts on Monday 15 February 2021, with first payments made from the end of February onwards, but Social Security Scotland is taking applications now to help manage demand.

You can apply if your child will be under six on 15 February 2021.

The qualifying benefits are:

- Child Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Social Security Scotland will ask for evidence that the person applying is responsible for a child under six, usually through the child being named on a benefit claim form.

If more than one person applies for the same child, there's a process for deciding who gets the payment - prioritising the person who the child lives with most of the time.

Scottish Child Payment will not be taken into account for UK benefit and tax credit assessments and there is no cap on the amount of children this payment can support.

First payments will be made from late February onwards. When someone gets paid will depend on how many applications we get and the process each individual application goes through.

**Dignity, fairness, respect.**



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If someone applied before Monday 15 February 2021, this will be the date that their payment will be calculated from. If they apply after this date, it will be calculated from the date that they applied.

Payments will be made every four weeks following the first payment.

Find out more information and apply at [mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment](https://mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment) or call Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

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We're taking applications now!



This new benefit will open on Monday 15 February 2021. It's a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Find out more at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits) or call us on 0800 182 2222.

**mygov.scot**

**If you have a child who will be under six on 15 February 2021 and you get certain benefits or tax credits, you could be due £40 every four weeks per child once Scottish Child Payment starts.**

To help us deal with demand, we are taking applications now. This way we can make sure we have all the information and evidence we need. This will help us to quickly make our decision on your application once the benefit starts. We will then start making payments from the end of February 2021.

When you apply for Scottish Child Payment, you can also apply for Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods at the same time and on the same form.

**Check if you are eligible and apply now at [mygov.scot/benefits](https://mygov.scot/benefits) or by calling 0800 182 2222.**



**HAPPY TO TRANSLATE**

This information can be provided in alternative languages or formats by calling 0800 182 2222.