

SOCIAL SECURITY SCOTLAND - UPDATE

Child Winter Heating Assistance

Regulations have been laid this week for our new benefit Child Winter Heating Assistance. This is a payment of £200 to families with the most seriously disabled children to help with winter fuel costs.

To get this extra money a child or young person must be on the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance for Children for one day during the qualifying week of 21 September.

The payments will be made later this winter. There will be no need to fill in an application for the majority of people. The money will be paid automatically to eligible families using data provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. The exception to this is clients who did not live in Scotland during the qualifying week..

The Pregnancy and Baby Payment is part of Best Start Grant, a package of three payments that give extra money to low income families during the early years of a child's life.

This payment is £600 for a first child and £300 for other children. There is also an extra £300 if clients have a multiple birth. The payment has been designed to help with expenses in pregnancy or having a new child, for example to buy maternity clothes, a pram or additional heating.

Clients can apply for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment from 24 weeks pregnant up to the day their baby is six months old. People can check if they are eligible and apply by post, at mygov.scot/best-start-grant or by calling free on 0800 182 2222.

Job Start Payment is now live

A new benefit to support 16 to 24 year olds, or up to 25 years old for care leavers, into work after being unemployed for six months or more is now open for applications.

Clients can apply for Job Start Payment if they are a young person who's been out of work and are on certain benefits. They must have been offered a job on or after 17 August 2020 to be eligible.

Job Start Payment is £250 to help with the costs of starting a new job. The payment rises to £400 if the person has a child.

Our Guide to Job Start Payment video is one of the stakeholder resources that are available on our website. Job Start Payment factsheets, flyers and social media posts are also available. If you would like to order print materials or if you have a bespoke request, please get in touch with our Communications team.

We would welcome your support and help promoting this new benefit and in getting the message out to young people that you support and work with.

How can young people can apply?

Visit mygov.scot/job-start-payment to apply online or call freephone on 0800 182 2222 to complete an application over the phone or to request a paper application form.

Scottish Child Payment timings announced

We expect a significant amount of demand for the new Scottish Child Payment.

To help us manage this, we are inviting people to submit applications from November.

We will start to process these ahead of eligibility formally opening in February 2021.

This will enable us to start making the first payments from the end of February.

People can apply for this new £10 per week benefit for children under 6 using the same application form that they would use to apply for Best Start Grant payments or Best Start Foods.

Funeral Support Payment pays out £6 million since launch

Over 4,300 people in Scotland qualified for a payment to help towards the cost of a loved one's funeral, according to the latest Funeral Support Payment statistics.

Eligible applicants currently receive an average of £1,593 to help towards the costs of a burial or cremation, and expenses such as travel and flowers.