

Sure Start Maternity Grant

The Sure Start Maternity Grant is no longer available in Scotland where it has been replaced by the Pregnancy and Baby Payment – see our separate [factsheet](#) for further information.

The Sure Start Maternity Grant is a one-off payment of £500, paid to families on a low income, to help with the costs of a new baby. This grant does not have to be repaid. The Sure Start Maternity Grant won't affect your eligibility for other benefits or Universal Credit.

Who is eligible?

You usually qualify for the grant if you **do not** live in Scotland and both of the following apply:

- you're expecting your first child, or you're expecting a multiple birth (such as twins) and have children already
- you or your partner already get certain benefits:
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Pension Credit
 - Universal Credit.

You must usually claim the grant within 11 weeks of the baby's due date or within 6 months after the baby's birth.

There must usually be no other children under the age of 16 in the household with the following exceptions:

- other babies from the same pregnancy as the child being claimed for
- where the only other child under 16 is the parent of the baby being claimed for
- where the only other child aged under 16 is a dependent child of the person claiming and the child being claimed for is the child of another dependant aged under 20
- if you, or a dependant aged under 20, are expecting a multiple birth you can get a Sure Start Maternity Grant if you already have a child or children under the age of 16 in your family (the amount you can get depends on whether the number of babies expected or born is more than the number of children already in the family).

You may also be able to get a grant if you're adopting or becoming a surrogate parent. The baby must be less than 1 year old on the date you claim. You must be receiving one of the benefits above and one of the following must also apply:

- you've become responsible for the baby and you're not the mother
- the baby has been placed with you for adoption
- you've got permission to adopt a baby from abroad
- you've got a parental order for a surrogate birth
- you've been appointed as guardian
- you've an adoption or a residence order.

How much will you get?

You will normally receive £500 for an eligible child. If you already have children under 16, you can only get a grant if you're expecting a multiple birth.

Number of children under 16	Grant if you have twins	Grant if you have triplets
You have 1 or more (none of whom are from multiple births)	£500	£1,000
You've already had twins	£0	£500
You've already had triplets	£0	£0

Payment will usually be made directly into a bank, building society or other account that you have nominated.

How to apply

Apply for a Sure Start Maternity Grant by completing claim form SF100 (Sure Start). In Northern Ireland, you can get a claim form from your local Social Security or Jobs and Benefits office, or you can download it from www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/sure-start-maternity-grant-form-sf100.

If you live in England or Wales, you can get a claim form from your local Jobcentre Plus, or download it from www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant/how-to-claim.

You can claim from 11 weeks before the week your baby is due until six months after your baby is born. If you're becoming responsible for a child through adoption, you must claim within six months of the child being placed with you.

Along with your application you must provide evidence of pregnancy or birth, this could be:

- a MATB1 signed by a health professional
- another statement signed by a health professional
- if the baby was still born, their birth certificate or other notification.

Return your completed claim form to the Social Security or Jobs and Benefits office (NI) or Jobcentre Plus (England and Wales). You'll get a letter telling you if your claim was successful.

In Northern Ireland you can get more information from your [local Social Security or Jobs and Benefits office \(NI\)](#).

If you require any further information on the financial support available for parents, please contact our Family Benefits Advice Service for free, confidential and impartial advice on fbas@employersforchildcare.org.