

# MONEY MATTERS



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN  
SCOTLAND

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a black Jordan brand t-shirt with a white Jumpman logo and a small Italian flag patch on the sleeve, is looking to his right. He is holding a blue card and a white straw. In the background, there are other people, including a woman in a white t-shirt and a man in a white t-shirt, and a table with various items like a coffee cup and containers.

contact

## TEMPORARY CHANGES DURING COVID-19

During the COVID-19 outbreak there are some temporary schemes offering additional support to working families adversely effected by the outbreak. This includes:

- Self-Isolation Support Grant – a £500 payment for low income workers asked to self-isolate by the Test and Protect Service.
- Self Employment Income Support Scheme – grants offering a percentage of average profits to self-employed people.
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – better known as the furlough scheme. Government pays 80% of a worker’s wages for any hours they don’t work due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Scheme ends in March 2021.



See our website for [more details on these schemes and other benefits](#) for those affected by COVID-19.

*“Know your rights –  
knowledge is power”*

**Parent carer**

This guide covers Scotland.

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# DISABILITY & SICKNESS BENEFITS

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## DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)

DLA is the main benefit for disabled children under the age of 16. It is there to help meet any extra costs of being disabled. Any ill or disabled child may be able to qualify, even those who don't have a diagnosis. It is not means-tested, so your financial situation will not be taken into account. Getting DLA can sometimes lead to an increase in other benefits, or help families qualify for them if they don't already get them. A child may qualify if:

- ***they need extra care or supervision – they may qualify for the care component***
- ***they need help getting around – they may qualify for the mobility component. The higher rate of the mobility component can give access to the Motability Scheme to lease a car.***

If a child turns 16 on or after 1 September 2020 their DLA award shouldn't stop at 16. Instead it should automatically be extended until the age of 18, as long as they continue to meet the normal rules. Once they turn 18 they will be invited to claim Personal Independence Payment.

New claims for child DLA in Scotland will be replaced with a new benefit – the Child Disability Payment. This will start with a pilot scheme in Summer 2021, with the new benefit being fully rolled out across Scotland in Autumn 2021.



For more information visit our website to see our guides and factsheets about **Claiming Disability Living Allowance for children**

Disability Living Allowance Helpline:

**0800 121 4600** Textphone: **0800 121 4523**

## PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

DLA for adults has been replaced by a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Like DLA it is not means-tested and it also has two types of payment – known as a mobility component and a daily living component.

PIP has already replaced new claims for DLA by disabled adults. However, some existing DLA claimants are also automatically asked to claim PIP. If your child is on DLA and turns 16 on or after 1 September 2020 they won't be asked to claim PIP until they are 18. Between the ages of 16 and 17 they can still choose to claim PIP instead of staying on DLA if they want. However, any young person considering this should seek detailed advice before doing so, as many disabled people are worse off on PIP.

If your child turned 16 before 1 September 2020 they will be invited to claim PIP once they turn 16. If your child is aged 16 or above and does not already get DLA it is too late to claim DLA for the first time and they will need to apply for PIP instead.

The government is also in the process of re-assessing all other existing adult DLA claimants under the PIP rules.

New claims for PIP in Scotland will be replaced with a new benefit called the Adult Disability Payment. This is planned to start with a pilot scheme in spring 2022, before being fully rolled out across Scotland in Summer 2022.



For more on PIP see our guide to [\*\*Personal Independence Payment\*\*](#)

Personal Independence Payment Claim Line:

**0800 917 2222** Textphone: **0800 917 7777**

## EMPLOYMENT & SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is a benefit for people over 16 whose capacity for work is limited by their health problems.

There are two types of ESA: **contributory** ESA, and **income-related** ESA.

Most young people can no longer get Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and have to claim Universal Credit instead. Universal Credit has now replaced new claims for income-related ESA. It's no longer possible to make a new claim for income-related ESA unless you are a disabled adult who is entitled to a payment known as the severe disability premium as part of another means-tested benefit. And while new claims for contributory ESA can still be made, most young people won't have worked and paid sufficient national insurance contributions to qualify.

If your son or daughter does get ESA or Universal Credit, you cannot get tax credits or benefits for them as a dependent child.



Contact our free helpline for more information on **0808 808 3555**  
email: [helpline@contact.org.uk](mailto:helpline@contact.org.uk)

*“Most new parents still don’t realise they can claim Disability Living Allowance for their child or Carer’s Allowance for themselves. Some feel they shouldn’t, others think their child won’t qualify. But it can make such a huge difference to families.”*

**Parent carer**

# CARER'S ALLOWANCE

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This is extra money for carers who care for someone who gets PIP daily living component at any rate or DLA care component at the middle or highest rate. Eligibility depends on the circumstances and weekly earnings of the carer. You can't get Carer's Allowance if you are a full time student, or if you work and earn more than £128 per week after deductions.

If you are on Universal Credit and the only thing that stops you getting Carer's Allowance is your earnings, you should still get an extra payment known as a carer addition as part of your Universal Credit award.

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Find out more in our [Carer's Allowance](#) factsheet

[Carer's Allowance Unit: 0800 731 0297](#) Textphone: [0800 731 0317](#)

## CARERS ALLOWANCE SUPPLEMENT

Carers in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance also qualify for an additional supplementary lump-sum payment twice a year by the Scottish government. This is known as the Carer's Allowance Supplement. You don't need to apply for a Carer's Allowance Supplement. Instead you should receive a payment automatically.

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If you think you should qualify but don't receive a grant, contact Social Security Scotland on **0800 182 2222**.

If you're a British Sign Language user, you can use the **contactSCOTLAND** app to contact Social Security Scotland by video relay.

## YOUNG CARERS GRANT

16, 17 and 18 year olds in Scotland who provide at least 16 hours a week care to someone who is receiving certain disability benefits can access a lump sum £305.10 once a year. A young person can only access a grant if they don't get Carer's Allowance.



**Apply for a Young Carer's Grant** or call Social Security Scotland on **0800 182 2222**.





# WORKING TAX CREDIT

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This is extra money for families with children where someone is working a required number of hours. This is 16 hours a week if you are a lone parent, or you are a couple and one partner works at least 16 hours and the other partner is entitled to Carer's Allowance or is incapacitated. Most other couples with children need to work at least 24 hours to be eligible. The amount you get will depend on your circumstances and annual income, but there is no limit on the amount of savings you can have.

For most people new claims for Working Tax Credit have been replaced by Universal Credit. However if you already get Child Tax Credit and you start working enough hours you can still start to get Working Tax Credit payments for the first time.

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Our website has more information about [Working Tax Credit](#)  
Tax Credits Helpline: **0345 300 3900** Textphone: **0345 300 3909**

## JOB START PAYMENT

A new grant to help 16-24 year olds (25 if a care leaver) with the costs of moving into work from unemployment. It offers £250 (£400 for those with a child of their own). The young person must have been on certain benefits for at least 6 months to be eligible.

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More information about [Job Start Payment](#) from the Scottish government.

# UNIVERSAL CREDIT

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A new benefit called Universal Credit is replacing new claims for:

- ***Income Support***
- ***Housing Benefit***
- ***Child Tax Credit***
- ***Working Tax Credit***
- ***income-based Jobseeker's Allowance***
- ***income-related Employment and Support Allowance.***

These are known as the 'legacy benefits'. Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit, so the amount you can get will depend on your income and capital as well as your other family circumstances. It can be paid whether you are in or out of work.

Universal Credit includes amounts for you, your children and certain housing costs. You should receive an extra Universal Credit payment known as the disabled child addition for each dependent child you have on DLA or PIP, so make sure the office paying your Universal Credit knows if your child gets one of these benefits.

If you work you can also get help with registered childcare costs. Some families will be worse off on Universal Credit than on legacy benefits.

## HOW DO I CLAIM UNIVERSAL CREDIT?

You will normally be asked to claim Universal Credit if you try and make a new claim for one of the legacy benefits it's replacing. The only group who can still make new claims for legacy benefits are severely disabled adults who are entitled to a payment known as the severe disability premium as part of an existing legacy benefit. This group is currently exempt from claiming Universal Credit, although that exemption will cease on 27 January 2020. Everyone else who wants to make a new claim for a legacy benefit will be told that new claims are not possible and that they have the option of claiming Universal Credit instead.

Usually the amount of Universal Credit you are paid increases with your family size. This is because you can get an extra payment, known as the child element, for each child in your family. However, special rules known as the ‘two child limit’ mean that you don’t normally receive an extra child element for a third or subsequent child if they were born after 5 April 2017, although you can still receive a disabled child addition for them if they’re disabled.

## **IF YOU ALREADY CLAIM BENEFITS**

In most parts of the UK, Universal Credit only applies to new claimants. Existing claimants who have no changes in circumstances are not currently asked to claim Universal Credit unless they live in area where ‘managed migration’ is being piloted. Managed migration started in late 2019/2020 in a pilot scheme in Harrogate in Yorkshire but this was suspended due to COVID-19. At the time of writing no new timetable for the managed migration commencing has been provided.

If your son or daughter claims Universal Credit as a young disabled adult any tax credits or other benefits you get for them (other than DLA or PIP) will stop.



See our factsheets [Universal Credit – the essentials](#) and [Universal Credit – claiming for a young disabled person](#)

Universal Credit Helpline: **0800 328 5644** Textphone **0800 328 1344**



# BENEFITS IF YOU'RE OUT OF FULL-TIME WORK

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## **CONTRIBUTION-BASED JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE**

Payable for six months for individuals who are unemployed and have recently paid sufficient national insurance contributions. You must be looking for work in order to claim.

## **INCOME SUPPORT AND INCOME-BASED JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE**

These are means-tested benefits for people who are not working, or working fewer than 16 hours a week. Some carers qualify if they work more hours than this. Income support is a benefit for people who are not expected to look for work because of their caring responsibilities and who are on a low income.

It is only possible to make a new claim for these two benefits if you are a disabled adult who is entitled to a payment known as the severe disability premium as part of another means tested benefit you already claim. In all other cases new claims for these two benefits have been replaced by Universal Credit.



Jobcentre Plus Claim Line Freephone:  
**0800 055 6688** Textphone: **0800 023 4888**

# MONEY AND VOUCHERS FOR HAVING CHILDREN

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## CHILD TAX CREDIT

Child Tax Credit is a benefit for people who are responsible for a 'dependent child'. This means a child aged under the age of 16, or aged 16-19 if they are in non-advanced education or certain types of unwaged training. The amount you get is based on your family circumstances and your annual income (unlike other means-tested benefits there is no limit on the amount of savings you can have). You get extra Child Tax Credit payments if you have a child on DLA or PIP, or who is registered blind, so make sure you let the Tax Credit Office know if this applies.

Usually the amount of tax credits you are paid increases with your family size. This is because you can get an extra tax credit payment, known as the child element, for each child in your family. However, special rules known as the 'two child limit' mean that you don't normally receive an extra child element for a third or subsequent child if they were born after 5 April 2017.

It is only possible to make a new claim for tax credits if you are a disabled adult who is entitled to a payment known as the severe disability premium as part of another means-tested benefit you already claim. In all other cases new claims for tax credits have been replaced by Universal Credit. However, if you already get Working Tax Credit you can still get this existing tax credit award reviewed to include Child Tax Credits for the first time.



See our website for more information about [Tax Credits](#)

Tax Credits Helpline: **0345 300 3900** Textphone: **0345 300 3909**

## CHILD BENEFIT

A payment if you are responsible for a dependent child (see definition on page 8). If someone in your household earns £50,000 or more, part or all of the benefit will be recovered via the income tax system.

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Child Benefit Office: **0300 200 3100** Textphone: **0300 200 3103**

## SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT

A new benefit for low income families with children who get certain means tested benefits. Initially the Scottish Child Payment will only be made for children who are aged under 6 but it will be extended to children aged under 16 by the end of 2022. The payment will be £10 per week per qualifying child. Applications for the Scottish Child Payment will be accepted from 9 November 2020 with initial payments starting from February 2021.

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Apply to [Social Security Scotland online](#) or by phone on **0800 182 2222**

## BEST START PREGNANCY AND BABY PAYMENT

This provides families on certain low income benefits with a grant of £600 for a first child and £300 for subsequent children. You can claim a grant from the 25th week of pregnancy up until your baby is six months old (this can be extended if necessary due to COVID-19). Families on certain means-tested benefits can also access a Sure Start Early Learning Payment of £250 for a child aged between two and three and a half years.

## BEST START FOODS

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that you can use in shops or online to buy healthy foods for children under three. This includes milk, first infant formula, fresh fruit and vegetable, pulses and fresh eggs. You can apply when you're pregnant, or at any time up to your child turning three years old. Normally you will need to be on certain low income benefits to qualify. However, if you are under 18 you can get a grant even if you are not on a qualifying benefit. If you are a parent aged 18 or 19 and someone else still gets benefits for you as a dependent, you can get a grant so long as that person gets certain benefits for you as part of their family. You may also qualify for a best start grant.



Find more information on [Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods](#) from the Scottish government.

## TAX FREE CHILDCARE

This is a Government scheme to help working families with childcare costs. For every £8 you pay into a childcare account, the Government will contribute an extra £2. The most they will contribute for a disabled child is £4,000 a year. However, if you open a tax free childcare account you no longer get any tax credits or Universal Credit. This may leave you much worse off. If you have a child aged 2–4 you may also be eligible for free early education and childcare.



Find out more about [childcare on our website](#)  
Contact your local council or see the [Scottish government information](#)  
Tax Free Childcare Helpline: **0300 123 4097**



## FREE LUNCHES IN EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

Currently all 3-4 year olds and some two year olds are entitled to government funded early learning and childcare (ELC). A child in government funded ELC should automatically for free lunches. A child in nursery should also qualify if you receive certain income related benefits or if at any point since they were aged two they've been looked after by the local authority or had a Kinship Care Order or had a Guardianship Order.



Contact your child's nursery or your local council for more information.

*"It's been a tremendous help. I'm paying for my seven year old (who has Asperger's) to attend a youth club, and for football three nights a week. It's helping him socialise and use up some energy, and the youth workers report a great improvement in his behaviour and well being."*

**Parent carer**


# AT SCHOOL

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## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Every child in Scotland who is in primary 1,2 or 3 at a local council school can get free school lunches. After primary 3, your child should be able to continue getting free school meals if you are on a low income and receive certain benefits. 16-18 year olds who receive certain low-income benefits in their own right can also qualify.


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 Information about [Free school meals](#) from the Scottish government. Contact your local authority to apply.

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Depending on your income and where in Scotland you live, you may be able to get a school clothing grant from your local council to help you buy your child's school clothing and shoes. Who qualifies for a grant and how much you will get depends on your local council's rules. If your child is starting primary 1 you may also be able to apply for a Best Start Grant school age payment.

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 Contact your local authority for more details.

*“Getting a nursery place for my daughter when she was three made her transition to school much easier as she had friends that understood her disabilities.”*

**Parent carer**

## SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Education authorities must provide transport or help with the costs if it is necessary to help a child get to the nearest suitable school.

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See [education charity Enquire](#) for more information

## VISITING A CHILD AT A SPECIAL SCHOOL

Education authorities have discretion to pay some or all of the fares of parents visiting children at a special school a long way from home.

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Contact your local authority for more information.

## HELP WHEN STARTING SCHOOL – BEST START PAYMENT

Families on certain means-tested benefits who have a child starting school can access a Best Start Payment of £250 for each eligible child. You can claim for a child who was born between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016. You can apply at any point up to 28 February 2021.

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Information about [Best Start Payment](#) from the Scottish government.

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

A weekly payment of £30 for 16–18 year olds (and some 19 year olds) who stay on at school/college or who undertake certain types of unwaged training. The amount awarded depends on parental income.

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More information about [EMAs](#) is on the Scottish government website



## AT HOME

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### SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE

Mandatory grants are available for work to a property that's deemed essential to meet the needs of a disabled person. A grant must cover at least 80 per cent of approved costs, with the other 20 per cent being means-tested.

A mandatory grant in Scotland cannot be made to cover the costs of an extension to create additional living space.



For more information see our guide to [Aids, equipment and adaptations](#)

### INSULATING YOUR HOME AND CUTTING ENERGY BILLS

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For details of government-backed schemes see:  
Home Energy Scotland: **0808 808 2282**

## HELP WITH HEATING BILLS

Under the Warm Homes Discount Scheme 'broader group', some families with a disabled child can get £140 off their winter fuel bill. As well as having a disabled child, you must be in receipt of certain means-tested benefits, or have a tax credit award based on an income below certain levels. Discounts are limited and given on a first come, first served basis. Not all suppliers take part. Call your energy supplier for more details.

## COLD WEATHER PAYMENTS

If the average temperature in your area over seven consecutive days drops below zero degrees then you may receive a payment of £25. This only applies if you get a means-tested benefit AND you meet certain other tests, for example you have a child on DLA or PIP. You don't need to apply for a cold weather payment this should be awarded automatically.



See our website for more information on [help with fuel bills](#)

## NEW CHILD WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE SCHEME

A £200 payment for each child in your family who is under 18 and who gets the highest rate of the DLA care component. To qualify your child must have been entitled to the higher rate of the DLA care component for at least one day in the week between 21 Sept 2020 and 27 September 2020. You do not need to apply for a payment as these will be automatically made by Social Security Scotland.



If your child qualifies but you have not received a payment by 11 December 2020, call Social Security Scotland on **0800 182 2222**.

## FURNITURE RE-USE SCHEMES

These schemes provide low-cost second hand and reconditioned furniture and white goods for families on a low income.

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To find your local scheme, visit the [Furniture Re-use Network](#)

## TV LICENCE

If you, or someone you live with is registered blind or severely sight impaired, you qualify for a 50 per cent reduction on the cost of your TV licence. If the person who is registered blind is not the current licence holder, you will need to transfer the licence into their name first.

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[TV Licensing website.](#)

# HELP WITH RENT, MORTGAGE & COUNCIL TAX

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## **HOUSING BENEFIT OR UNIVERSAL CREDIT PAYMENTS TOWARDS RENT**

Some people on low incomes are getting Housing Benefit to help with their rent. However, most people cannot make a new claim for Housing Benefit, as new claims for this benefit have been replaced by Universal Credit.

You can still make a new claim for Housing Benefit if you live in certain types of accommodation, such as supported accommodation. Otherwise, you may be able to get payments towards your rent costs as part of a Universal Credit claim. If you live in supported accommodation and qualify for a severe disability premium as part of your Housing Benefit award, this means you are exempt from Universal Credit and can make new claims for other legacy benefits instead. However, that exemption is due to end on 27 January 2021.

## **DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS**

A local authority can make a discretionary payment if you are entitled to some Housing Benefit and need further financial assistance to meet your housing costs, for example if there is a shortfall due to the bedroom tax rules. As well as housing benefit claimants, discretionary housing payments can also be made to Universal Credit claimants whose award includes help towards rent.

The Scottish Government has provided extra funding to councils so that they can use Discretionary Housing Payments to compensate people affected by the bedroom tax. This means that if you're affected by the bedroom tax and apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment your local

council is expected to give you one. If you have a shortfall in rent for other reasons it will be up to your local council to decide whether to give you a payment or not.

## **HELP WITH MORTGAGE INTEREST PAYMENTS**

If you receive certain means-tested benefits such as Universal Credit or Income Support you may be able to get help towards mortgage interest. However, this is paid as a loan which is repaid with interest when you sell or transfer ownership of your home.

## **DISABILITY REDUCTION SCHEME**

A non means-tested reduction on the council tax bill for people who:

- ***use a wheelchair indoors, or***
- ***have an extra bathroom or kitchen in the house for a disabled occupier, or***
- ***have set aside a room for a disabled person, for example, using a dining room to store equipment.***

## **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT**

Your council tax bill is reduced by 25 per cent (50 per cent in some cases) if there are fewer than two adults in your household. The presence of children and certain adults (including some carers) can be ignored. Apply to your local council for this discount.


## **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION**

Help for council tax payers on a low income. You can claim if you are working or out of work. If you get certain mean-tested benefits such as Income Support, or income-related Employment and Support Allowance, you will normally automatically qualify for help with 100% of costs.



However, this might be reduced if you have other adults who are not your partner living with you. Otherwise the amount of help you get will depend on your income and savings.

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 Apply to your local council for reduction, disability reduction and/or discount. For more information on all the topics in this section [visit our website](#) or download our guide to **Help with council tax bills**



# TRANSPORT

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## HELP WITH GETTING A CAR

If your child is awarded the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance, or the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment at the enhanced rate, you have the option of using that money to lease a new car through the Motability Scheme. To access this scheme your child's award must normally have at least 12 months left to run.

If you're unable to drive and need help with paying for lessons, or require help with the costs of a deposit or adaptations to a vehicle you can also apply to Motability for a discretionary grant.

The Scottish government is setting up an Accessible Vehicles and Equipment scheme to ensure that there is equivalent provision to the Motability scheme for children in Scotland who get the higher rate mobility component of the new Child Disability Payment.



To find out more contact **Motability: 0300 456 4566**

## FREE ROAD TAX FOR YOUR CAR

You can get a 100 per cent rebate if you qualify for, or have a child aged three or over, who qualifies for either DLA mobility component at the higher rate or PIP mobility component at the enhanced rate. A 50 per cent rebate is made where someone qualifies for PIP mobility component at the standard rate. The car must be used to meet the disabled person's needs. You should be sent information about this scheme when you receive the decision awarding you either DLA or PIP.

## A BLUE BADGE FOR YOUR CAR

This allows access to disabled parking. You will qualify automatically if you get DLA mobility component at the higher rate. Disabled adults on PIP also automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if they score 8 points or more under the PIP activity of ‘moving around’ or 12 points or more in the PIP activity of ‘planning and following a journey. If your child used to get the higher rate DLA mobility component and now gets PIP but doesn’t score sufficient points to qualify under the rules above, they should still qualify for a Blue Badge if their previous DLA mobility award was on an indefinite or lifetime award or if they are appealing the PIP decision. Your child should also qualify if they registered blind.

If you do not qualify automatically based on your DLA or PIP award you can still qualify if you are assessed as meeting certain tests. You may qualify if your child is under three and has a condition which means they either need to be accompanied by bulky equipment or kept near a vehicle at all times. You can also qualify if you are assessed as having great difficulties in walking or have a diagnosed mental disorder and lack an awareness of the danger from traffic. Certain other groups can also qualify but whether they are awarded a badge will depend on an individual assessment. Contact your local authority to apply.


*“The money has eased the pressure on my husband. We were relying on his overtime to see us through but now he can spend more time with my daughter and little boy.”*

**Parent carer**

## HELP WITH BUS TRAVEL

Disabled people in Scotland aged over five qualify for a free bus travel pass if they are in receipt of certain disability benefits (including the higher rate of the mobility component or the higher or middle rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance, or Personal Independence Payment at any rate. Your child should be eligible if they qualify for a Blue Badge or have certain specific conditions. Depending on the disability benefits a child receives an essential companion can get free travel alongside the disabled person.

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 For more details see [Transport Scotland](#)

## DISABLED PERSON'S RAILCARD

Buying this railcard entitles disabled people up to a third off most train fares.

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 **0345 605 0525** Textphone **0345 601 0132**



# GRANTS AND LOANS

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There are several sources of help from grant making organisations.

- **THE SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND:** provides grants to help low income families in Scotland. Anyone on a low income can apply – you don't necessarily need to be on benefits. There are two types of grant. A Community Care Grant can help you pay for items needed to live a settled life in the community, for example to buy white goods such as a cooker or fridge. While Crisis Grants provide help with living costs such as food or heating in an emergency. Apply via your local council. If you are awarded a grant you may get cash or your council may instead provide you with the items you need. Some councils make payments using pre-paid cards or vouchers.
- **BUDGETING LOANS:** from Jobcentre Plus for those on certain means-tested benefits. These have been replaced by budgeting advances for those on Universal Credit.
- **CHARITIES:** there are funds for certain occupations, disabilities or those in certain geographical areas.

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 We have a [list of charities, plus a searchable online grant-giving tool](#)  
Or contact our helpline: **0808 808 3555** [helpline@contact.org.uk](mailto:helpline@contact.org.uk)

## FAMILY FUND

Grants for families on certain benefits, whose child is severely disabled and aged 17 or under.

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 **01904 550 055** [familyfund.org.uk](http://familyfund.org.uk)

# OTHER HELP

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## **NHS COSTS, GLASSES, HOSPITAL FARES, FREE PRESCRIPTIONS**

NHS prescriptions are free in Scotland as are eye and dental examinations. You may be able to get help towards the costs of glasses, certain dental treatment and the costs of going to hospital for treatment (including accompanying a child). Whether you get help will depend on your income. If you are on certain means tested benefits you will qualify automatically, otherwise you will need to apply via the NHS low income scheme.

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For more information see [Help with health costs](#) from NHS Inform.

## **UK CINEMA ASSOCIATION CARD**

Free tickets for a person to accompany a child aged eight or over to the cinema if they receive DLA or PIP or are registered blind. Also, many local attractions offer discount schemes and queue jump passes for disabled people and their carers. Ask when you book.

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**01244 526 016** Textphone **18001 01244 526 016**

Visit the [CEA Card](#) website to find out more.

## OTHER BENEFITS

Call our freephone helpline if you have a child with a disability and:

- you are sick or disabled as a result of an accident or illness at work, or after service in the armed forces
- your spouse (including common law spouse) or civil partner has died – there are special benefits for bereavement. If your partner or another close relative dies, you are responsible for the funeral costs, and receive certain means-tested benefits, you may also be able to apply for a Funeral Support Payment
- you care for an orphaned child or one whose parents are in prison
- you are of Pension Credit qualifying age. There are pensions and pension credits you may be entitled to
- you are disabled and of state pension age – you might get Attendance Allowance



For more detailed information see our website information on [welfare benefits in Scotland](#) and [financial help from Scottish councils](#). You can also access individual advice from our free Helpline on 0808 808 3555 (Mon-Fri; 9.30am-5pm)



# GET IN CONTACT

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Our helpline advisers can support you with any issue about raising your disabled child: help in the early years, diagnosis, benefits, and local support.

 [0808 808 3555](tel:08088083555)

 [contact.org.uk](https://www.contact.org.uk)

 [scotland.office@contact.org.uk](mailto:scotland.office@contact.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/contactinScotland](https://www.facebook.com/contactinScotland)

 [twitter.com/contactfamilies](https://twitter.com/contactfamilies)

 [youtube.com/contactfamilies](https://www.youtube.com/contactfamilies)

## Contact Scotland

The Melting Pot  
5 Rose St  
Edinburgh  
EH2 2PR

Sign up to our  
[Scotland e-newsbulletin](#)



We are Contact, the charity for families with disabled children.

We support families with the best possible guidance and information.

We bring families together to support each other.

We help families to campaign, volunteer and fundraise to improve life for themselves and others.

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