



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Get help from **Sure Start Maternity Grant**

**Easy
Read**



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1

Introduction



Department
for Work &
Pensions

A **Sure Start Maternity Grant** is help you can get from the Department for Work and Pensions.



The help is money known as a **grant**. You would not have to pay the money back.



If you can get a grant, it will be a **one-off payment**.



This money is to help with the costs of having a child.



You cannot get a Sure Start Maternity Grant if you live in Scotland.

If you live in Scotland there are other grants available.

Go to www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods



This information will tell you **who** can claim a Sure Start Maternity Grant.

For more Easy Read information about a Sure Start Maternity Grant, go to www.gov.uk

Search for **Easy Read Sure Start Maternity Grant**.

2

Who can claim



Usually to get a Sure Start Maternity Grant, you or your partner must:

- Be pregnant with your first child or have recently had a baby
- Get certain benefits.



You must make your claim **before** your baby is 6 months old.



To get a grant, you or your partner **must get** one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit



jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

- Income Support
- Income based
Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment
and Support Allowance



Department
for Work &
Pensions

- Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit (which you
are getting due to a disability).



Get help from
Support for Mortgage
Interest

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You may also be able to get a
grant if you are getting a Support
for Mortgage Interest loan.

3

If you already have children under 16 years old



You may still be able to get a Sure Start Maternity Grant if you already have children under 16 years old.



You may be the carer of a child who is someone else's (but not your partner's) and they live with you full time.



The child must have been at least 12 months old when you started caring for them.



This kind of care could be:

- Family and friends care, also known as kinship care
- Private fostering.

For more information about looking after someone else's child go to www.gov.uk/looking-after-someone-elses-child



You may also be able to claim a Sure Start Maternity Grant if:

- You are expecting more than one baby (multiple births, such as twins)



- You have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and you have a child or children from before you arrived in the UK.

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If you are not giving birth



You may also get a grant if you are claiming for a family member who is having their first child and lives with you.



That family member must be:

- Under 16 years old



- 16 to 19 years old and in approved education or training.



You may be able to get a Sure Start Maternity Grant if you are **adopting a child**.



Explaining adoption

Sometimes children cannot stay with their birth parents or families.

Adoption is a legal way of giving those children a new family. The person adopting the child is not the birth parent but agrees to take care of the child as if they were their own.



To get a grant, you still need to be on one of the benefits mentioned in chapter 2 **Who can claim**, listed on pages 5 and 6.



If you adopt a child or are a parent who holds a **qualifying order**, one of the following must apply:

- You have the baby in your care for adoption



Not the mother

- You have become responsible for the baby and you are not the mother



Explaining a qualifying order

A **qualifying order** explains who cares for a child and is usually a law or order set in court.

Examples include:

- Child arrangement order
- Parental order
- Adoption.



- You are the child's guardian, as set by law



- You have an adoption or a **child arrangement order**

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Explaining a child arrangement order

A **child arrangement order** is where a law is set in court that agrees or decides where and with whom a child will live.



- You have got permission to adopt a baby from abroad



- You have got a **parental order** from a court for a surrogate birth.

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Explaining a parental order

A **parental order** is when a child's parent changes by law, from the birth mother to the intended parent or parents.

For more information on who can get Sure Start Maternity Grants, go to www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant/eligibility