

Sure Start Maternity Grant

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If you're on a low income and getting certain benefits or tax credits, you could get a Sure Start Maternity Grant (SSMG). This is a one-off payment to help towards the cost of having a baby. The grant is tax free and you don't have to repay it and it won't affect your other benefits or tax credits.

Eligibility

Usually, to qualify for a Sure Start Maternity Grant there must be no other children in your family and you must get one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit at a rate higher than the family element
- Working Tax Credit that includes a disability or severe disability element
- Universal Credit

If you already have children you may still be able to get a grant if you're expecting a multiple birth (eg twins or triplets).

If you're not giving birth

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

Time limits

- You can claim from 11 weeks before the week your baby is due.
- The latest you can claim is 3 months after your baby is born.
- if you're becoming responsible for a child, eg through adoption, you must claim within 3 months of this happening (eg the child being placed with you).

How much do you get?

You can get £500 for each baby. Your savings won't affect the grant.

How it's paid?

Jobcentre Plus will normally pay your grant into an account. Your grant can be paid into the following types of account:

- a basic bank account
- a current account
- a Post Office® card account
- a building society account
- a credit union account

How to claim Sure Start Maternity Grant

You can apply for a Sure Start Maternity Grant by completing claim pack SF100 (Sure Start).

To get a claim pack:

Telephone: 0345 603 6967 or

Download a claim pack from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website <https://www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant>

This must be signed by your Health Visitor or doctor.

Return your completed claim pack to: Freepost DWP SSMG
You don't need a postcode or stamp.

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