

# Sure Start Maternity Grant

## Sure Start Maternity Grant

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

You usually qualify for the grant if you're expecting your first child, or you're expecting a multiple birth and have children already **and** you or your partner already get certain benefits (below):

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

### 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?

All benefits, pensions and allowances are paid into your bank, building society or 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.

You can also take the form to your local Job Centre Plus, but it can take longer to process.

You'll get a letter telling you if you were successful.

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