



Social Security
Scotland

Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Carer Support Payment

What is Carer Support Payment?

In Scotland, Carer Support Payment has replaced Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Carer Support Payment is money for people who look after someone who is disabled or who has a long-term health condition.

Who can apply?

To be eligible, a carer must

- be 16 or over
- provide 35 hours or more of unpaid care a week to someone of any age who is getting certain
- disability benefits
- earn £151 per week or less on average after some deductions
- live in an area where the benefit is available

How much is Carer Support Payment and when will it be paid?

Carer Support Payment will be paid at the same rate as Carer's Allowance. This is currently £81.90 per week or £327.60 every 4 weeks.

Can someone get Carer Support Payment if they receive other benefits?

People can get Carer Support Payment at the same time as other benefits. If they get 'means-tested' benefits such as Universal Credit, Carer Support Payment may affect the amount they get. They'll usually be better off overall because they can get extra amounts in these benefits for being a carer.

If a carer gets 'income replacement' benefits such as State Pension or 'new-style' Employment and Support Allowance, this may affect the amount of Carer Support Payment they can get.

If their benefit is worth the same as or more than Carer Support Payment, they may have 'underlying entitlement'. This means they will not receive any money in Carer Support Payment, but might be able to get additional benefits or top ups to existing benefits, including Pension Credit.

Does getting Carer Support Payment impact the benefits of the cared for person?

The disability benefits of the person being cared for (including Adult Disability Payment, Child Disability Payment, Personal Independence Payment, and Disability Living Allowance) should not be affected because their carer gets Carer Support Payment.

If the person being cared for gets a Severe Disability Premium - an extra amount included in some means-tested benefits - they will usually stop getting this if their carer receives Carer Support Payment. They may also stop getting reduced Council Tax.

What if someone already gets Carer's Allowance from the DWP?

People who live in Scotland and already get Carer's Allowance do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. Their award will be moved from Carer's Allowance to Carer Support Payment automatically. They will get a letter to let them know when this is happening.

Can students get Carer Support Payment?

Carer Support Payment is available to more carers in education than Carer's Allowance Supplement, the benefit it replaces. Carers aged 16 or over can get Carer Support Payment if they are studying part-time. People aged 20 or over who are studying full-time are also eligible. Carers aged 16 to 19 studying full-time may be eligible, depending on the type of course they are studying and their circumstances.

Carers will not normally be able to get Carer Support Payment if they are studying Nationals or Highers at secondary school or college. They may be eligible if they are able to get other benefits, such as Universal Credit, while in full-time education.

Additional financial support

Carers getting Carer Support Payment, or Carer's Allowance from the DWP, on a certain date, will also get Carer's Allowance Supplement. This is an automatic payment of £288.60 paid 2 times a year.

How should people apply?





People can find out more and apply online at mygov.scot/carersupport. People can also apply in person, over the phone or ask for a paper application form by post by calling us free on **0800 182 2222**.

Support to apply is available from our specially trained client advisers in every local authority in Scotland. Carers can call us to book an appointment at a location and time that suits them either in their local community or at home, via video call or by telephone.

Other support for carers

For more information on help for carers, go to mygov.scot and search for 'being a carer'.

How can people contact us?

-  Call us free on: 0800 182 2222
-  Text Relay Service: 18001 +0300 244 4000 (for the hard of hearing)
-  British Sign Language users: contactscotland-bsl.org
-  Webchat: chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot