A Curious, Creative Community

A BRIEF GUIDE TO EXTRA FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE FOR OUR FAMILIES & CARERS

Many families with children are entitled to some extra financial support. If you are struggling on a low income, you may be entitled to this extra help, even if you haven't claimed anything before.

This guide is designed to give you some pointers to where you can get this help, who qualifies for it and where you can apply. The document contains embedded / underlined links which will take you straight to the site and any application process or help you in what you have to do.

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Free school meals in Edinburgh schools

The current cost of a paid for 2 course school lunch in an Edinburgh Primary School is £2.25 per day per child. This means an annual payment of around £439 per year per child.
Currently, in Scotland, all children in P1 – P3 automatically qualify for a free school meal so you don't need to apply for this, however the Free School Meal and Clothing Grant will give your child free milk and a payment into your account for Uniform so please do apply in P1-3 if you meet the criteria for this grant. When your child enters P4, you must apply if you feel you qualify.

A successful application follows the criteria below:
UNIVERSAL CREDIT – Where your take home pay is less than £610 per month.
CHILD TAX CREDIT - - With an income of less than £16385 per year.
WORKING TAX CREDIT – With an income of less than £7330 per year.
SUPPORT FROM PART VI – IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM ACT 1999
INCOME SUPPORT
INCOME BASED JOB SEEKER'S ALLOWANCE
INCOME RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE
HOUSING BENEFIT
PENSION CREDIT

Applications for new children opened in June. Those currently in receipt of the Free School Meals & Uniform Grant will get a letter to advise if an automatic continuation of the grant will occur. Use the link above or call 0131 200 2000 or email school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk .

The Storehouse Food Bank

https://www.rathoparishchurch.org.uk/storehouse0

Call 07788701980 and arrangements can be made for deliveries within the Ratho area. This service is completely confidential.

Located at the entrance to Ratho Parish Church, Baird Road, Ratho.

The Edinburgh police fund for children

This fund provides grants for clothing and footwear to children in Edinburgh who are in need of assistance. A family who is resident in Edinburgh and meet the criteria, can be referred by the school. This grant is for a winter jacket & /or shoes to a maximum of £50 per child. If you are in receipt of FSM grant then the school can apply on your behalf. There is a restriction to the number of families a school can refer.

Edinburgh school bank for uniforms

The Edinburgh School Uniform Bank distribute bespoke packs of new school uniform to hundreds of Edinburgh families each year, as well as supplying nearly-new uniform to schools and community groups. Click on the link above for more information or you can email info.esub@gmail.com

Best start grant

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is £250 to help with the costs of starting school. Once received, no receipts or proof of spend are required.

If you have or are responsible for a child born between 1st March 2015 and 29th February 2016, you can claim from 1st June 2020 to 28th February 2021. You are entitled to apply even before your child starts school.

You can claim if you or your partner are entitled to:
UNIVERSAL CREDIT – You must have been getting UC in the monthly assessment period in which you apply, or the one before that.
CHILD TAX CREDIT OR WORKING TAX CREDIT
INCOME SUPPORT
INCOME BASED JOB SEEKER'S ALLOWANCE
INCOME RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE
HOUSING BENEFIT
PENSION CREDIT

You can also still apply if you are under 18 or you are 18 or 19 and a dependent on someone else's claim because you are still at college. If you have recently become responsible for a child, like a kinship carer, you may also qualify for a payment. Click on any of the links above to apply or call 0800 182 2222.

If you have a child aged between 2 and 3 ½, you may also qualify for the BEST START GRANT EARLY LEARNING PAYMENT.
If you are at least 24 weeks pregnant or within 6 months of giving birth, you may also qualify for a BEST START GRANT PREGNANCY AND BABY PAYMENT.

Child disability payment

This benefit is for children and young people aged between three months and 18 years who have lived with a disability for at least three months and who can expect to continue to have this disability for at least six months.

Qualifying children aged three months or over will be entitled to a payment for their care. Children over three years old can also get a payment to help with their mobility needs.
Qualifying for this may also entitle you to The Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People. This a payment of £200 for children and young people up to the age of 18. To get this payment, you must meet two criteria on at least one day in the third full week of September (called the "qualifying week"). On that day you must:

- ✓ Get the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance for children. (Currently £89.15 per week)
- ✓ Be resident in Scotland

You can click on the links above or call the DWP free on 08001214600.

THE SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT

The brand new Scottish Child Payment are open, with first payments in February 2020. The SCP gives eligible families on low incomes an extra £10 per week per child. It's being rolled out in stages, firstly to families with children aged under 6.

You can claim if you have a child and receive:
UNIVERSAL CREDIT
PENSION CREDIT
Click on the link above to find out more and apply.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Social Care Direct Edinburgh – During office hours, you can call 0131 200 2327 to report any concerns you have about the care and welfare of any child or young person in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Out of Hours Emergency Social Work number is 0800 731 6969 which is available out of normal office hours.

One Parent Families Scotland is an organisation that offers a free helpline number and provides general advice to lone parents on issues concerning them.

Citizens Advice Scotland - The Citizens Advice Bureaux in Scotland offer free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on a wide range of subjects.

KinshipScot – A great website full of links and supports for families in Edinburgh.

Kindred – This is a charitable organisation run by parents to support children and young people with complex needs. Its website provides great ideas and links to information and financial grants which families meeting the criteria can apply for.

Parenting Across Scotland – Another great website for helplines across Scotland, access to parenting information and benefits advice as well as a great 'Top 10 Tips' section for parents and carers.

Children 1st Parentline – This website gives valuable information about means tested benefits and counselling advice to all parents and carers in Scotland.

Partners in Advocacy – provide independent advocacy for individuals living with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, physical disabilities. They also provide independent advocacy to children and young people who are living with mental health issues, additional support needs and learning disabilities.

CPAG – The Children's Poverty Action Group Scotland – The CPAG site is a one stop shop for welfare rights and benefit advice for families with children and young people. It offers national guides and guidance to many of the benefits mentioned in this guide.

ClothesBank+ - This is part of The Edinburgh City Mission which provides valuable help in lots of areas for vulnerable families. Like the Police Clothing Scheme, the school can make a referral on behalf of a family who require good quality day to day clothing for both children and adults.

CHAI - The Community Help and Advice Initiative support people living across Edinburgh and the Lothians.to relieve poverty, provide social welfare assistance, practical help and to provide information, advice and support. Their website is easy to navigate to all the services they provide.