



Education Services

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**A Guide to Financial Support
for children, young people and their families
in Clackmannanshire**
June 2014



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacksweb.org.uk



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to this guide detailing support for children, young people and those who care for them. There is a raft of entitlements available to children and their carers, many of which have recently been introduced. Some are available from Central Government and some from Clackmannanshire Council. In this leaflet we have set out some of the main entitlements and how you can claim them.

Child Support Maintenance

Child maintenance is paid by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission formerly known as the CSA. It is paid to people who are bringing up a child who has a parent not living with them (Non Resident Parent). Over the last few years the child maintenance system has been simplified so that non resident parents pay a percentage of their net pay depending on how many children they have not living with them.

For more information

 08457 133 133

Child Tax Credit

Child Tax Credit is a tax free payment paid to people who have responsibility for a child. It is paid to both people who work and people who do not. How much you receive depends on your household income. It can be paid for children from birth up until the day before their 20th birthday as long as they remain in full-time non advanced education.

Some people who have been in receipt of Income Support for many years do not receive child tax credit as they receive the same amount of money through Income Support.

For more information

 0345 300 3900



Children with Additional Support Needs

If you are bringing up a child who is ill or who has a disability you may be able to claim Disability Living Allowance. This benefit is designed to offer extra help for children who require assistance on a daily basis with getting around or with personal care. It is a non means tested benefit so can be paid on top of any other household income.

For more information please contact the Disability and Carer's Service helpline.

 08457 123456

Clackmannanshire Educational Trust

Over the years, funds have been bequeathed by people who have lived in or had connection with the County of Clackmannan and the interest from these funds is given to people who are resident in Clackmannanshire for certain educational purposes.

The funds are limited and grants tend to be no more than £100.00.

For more information

 01259 452499
 fswsupport@clacks.gov.uk
 www.clacksweb.org.uk



Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

If you are a young person who will be attending school for 21 hours per week and the income of your household is less than £20,351 (or £22,403 for households with 2+ dependant children) you may be entitled to an EMA of £30 per week from August 2014.

If you were born between 1 March 1995 and 28 February 1999 you may be eligible for an EMA.

If you are 16 years of age or over before 30 September 2014 you may be eligible for an EMA from August 2014. If you are 16 years of age between 1 October 2014 and 28 February 2015, you may be eligible for an EMA from January 2015.

The EMA is payable for a maximum of 42 weeks per academic year.

For more information



01259 452499



fswsupport@clacks.gov.uk



www.clacksweb.org.uk

Help with Clothing and School Meals

If you have children between the ages of 5 and 16, who attend a school in Clackmannanshire and you are in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) OR Child Tax Credits (where NO Working Tax Credit is payable and your income does not exceed £16,010) then you are entitled to a grant of £55 per child to assist with the purchase of clothing and footwear for school.

If you are in receipt of MAXIMUM Child Tax Credit and MAXIMUM Working Tax Credit and your income is **less** than £6,420 you are entitled to a school clothing grant.

Children with families who receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 may also be entitled.

Please note that you must be in receipt of the qualifying benefit(s) for 5 weeks before a School Clothing Grant payment can be made.

Quality school clothing is available at reasonable prices, from your child's school. Please contact the school office for further information.

If you are entitled to a School Clothing Grant your child is also entitled to receive Free School Meals. Any child registered for Free School Meals is also entitled to a free breakfast (in participating schools only) and free milk.

The latest you can apply for a Clothing Grant, for the 2014/15 academic session, is 31st December 2014.

You can apply for Free School Meals at any time but your application is only effective from the day your entitlement is approved.

For more information



01259 452499



fswsupport@clacks.gov.uk




www.clacksweb.org.uk

Income Support

Income Support is a means tested benefit and is paid to lone parents and carers. If you are caring for children as a lone parent and have no other income you may receive Income Support. Income Support is only paid up until youngest child reaches 5 years old, at which point they may be asked to transfer to Jobseekers Allowance and look for work.

For more information


 0845 608 8545
or 0345 608 8545

Employment and Support Allowance

Employment and Support Allowance was introduced in October 2008. It is paid to anyone who becomes sick or unfit for work from that date. It is a replacement for Incapacity Benefit and over the next few years anyone on Incapacity Benefit will transfer to Employment and Support Allowance.

You can claim ESA if you are looking after children but are also unfit to work. ESA is designed to look at what a person can do rather than cannot do and offers support and help for people to assist them to make a return to suitable employment which will recognise their disability.

For more information

 0845 608 8545
or 0345 608 8545



Maternity/Paternity/Adoption Pay

Statutory Maternity Pay and maternity allowance can be paid for 39 weeks. Each individual employer will have their own policy on maternity leave but the minimum they need to offer is £138.18 for 39 weeks.

Statutory Paternity is also payable to fathers at this rate for 1 or 2 weeks.

Statutory Adoption pay is also paid at this rate and can be paid for 39 weeks.

For more information

 local Jobcentre Plus Office

Sure Start Maternity Grant

The Sure Start Maternity Grant is a one-off payment to help with the cost of a new baby. You can claim from 11 weeks before your baby is due, until 3 months after the baby is born. In order to claim a Sure Start Maternity Grant you or your partner should be receiving one of the following: Income Support; income based Job Seeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit where a disability element is included or Child Tax Credit at a rate higher than the family element. You can get more information about this in the leaflet NI17A 'A Guide to Maternity Benefits' available from your local Job Centre Plus Office.



Working Tax Credit Childcare Element

Working Tax Credit supports working households on low incomes. It is made up of a number of elements, one of which helps with the cost of registered or approved child care. The Childcare element can provide help with up to 70% of your childcare costs, subject to maximum limits.

For more information


 0345 300 3900




Useful Numbers

We have included useful telephone numbers and websites to provide you with additional help.



CHILD BENEFIT ENQUIRY LINE


 0845 302 1444

SCOTTISH FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE



 www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk

JOBSEEKER DIRECT

 0845 606 0234
or  0345 606 0234

 www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk


LONE PARENTS HELPLINE

 0808 801 0323 or
 0800 018 5026
(Gingerbread)

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL


 www.clacksweb.org.uk

FACILITIES SCHOOLS & WELFARE TEAM

 01259 452499


 fswsupport@clacks.gov.uk

MONEY ADVICE SERVICE

 01259 452512

 moneyadvice@clacks.gov.uk

TAX CREDIT ENQUIRIES

 0345 300 3900

 www.hmrc.gov.uk/tax-credits/



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