

# Financial Support for Families 2025/26

## National & EDC Support

Click the heading links to apply or find out more information.

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**INCLUSIVENESS**  
COMPASSION **AMBITION**  
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### The East Dunbartonshire Income Maximisation Service

The East Dunbartonshire Income Maximisation Service is available to all East Dunbartonshire residents and provides free confidential advice if you are experiencing any financial worries or hardships.



### School Clothing Grant and Free School Meals (FSM)

The School Clothing Grant amounts being paid by East Dunbartonshire Council for the current 2025/2026 academic year is £150.

Please note that you require to make a new application for Free School Meals and/or Clothing Grants each year.



### Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is a weekly payment of £30 to help support a student in education beyond the school leaving age of 16. This is awarded based on a household income of less than £26,884 and is only paid based on the pupil having 100% attendance.



### Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £27.15 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful.



### Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare Fund helps families and people in Scotland who are on low incomes with living costs. Support can be provided in the format of a crisis grant or community care grant. You must be 16 or over and on a low income, or getting certain benefits, to apply for these grants.



### Child Disability Payment

Payment provides support for the extra costs that a disabled child might have. You can also apply for Child Disability Payment if the disabled child does not have a diagnosis. This payment will be paid until the child is 18. The amount of the payment can vary dependent on circumstances.



### Child Winter Heating Payment

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced by the Scottish Government. It is a payment to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over the winter if they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. It is paid once a year, usually from the end of November onwards. The payment for winter 2025-26 is £255.80.



### Winter Heating Payment

Winter Heating Payment will be paid from December 2025 and will be £59.75. You'll automatically get the single payment between December and February (depending on your financial circumstances). You'll get a letter or an email from Social Security Scotland telling you it's coming.



### Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

ESA is a benefit for adults whose ability to work is limited through ill health or disability. You can apply if you're employed, self-employed or unemployed. ESA awards very dependent on whether the claimant is able to get back into work in the future or not.

### Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is a benefit paid to people who spend at least 35 hours per week caring for someone – the person you care for must be in receipt of certain benefits for you to qualify for entitlement. Carer's Allowance is paid at a rate of £83.30 a week.

### Carer's Allowance Supplement

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who are in receipt of Carer's Allowance twice a year. This payment will be £293.50 from December 2025. You'll get this payment if you're getting Carer Support Payment or Carer's Allowance on 13 October 2025.

### Young Carer Grant

Young Carer Grant is available to young people aged 16-18 who have been caring for 1, 2 or 3 people for an average of 16 hours a week for at least the last 3 months. Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £390.25.

### Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the cost of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments: pregnancy and baby payment, early learning payment and school age payment. Best Start Food is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit.

### Job Start Payment

Job Start Payments help with the costs of starting a new job. Young people or care leavers who have been out of work and/or in receipt of certain benefits. If your application is successful you'll get £319.80, or a higher payment of £511.65 if you're the main carer of any children.

### Free Bus Travel Pass

The Scottish Government now provide a free bus travel pass to all young people in Scotland under the age of 22. This pass allows young people to travel on all public transport buses in Scotland free of charge. For those under the age of 16, parents/guardians must apply for this pass, those over the age of 16 can apply themselves

### Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

DHP can help if your rent isn't covered by your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. DHP awards reflect the individual circumstances of each claimant and the amount of funds available at the time of the application.