



01925 443322

FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Tax credits - If you're responsible for at least one child or young person who normally lives with you, you may qualify for **Child Tax Credit**. If you work, but earn lower wages, you may qualify for **Working Tax Credit**.

The amount of tax credits you get depends on things like:

- How many children and young people you have living with you
- Whether you work - and how many hours you work
- If you pay for childcare
- If you have or any child living with you has a disability
- If you're aged 50 plus and are coming off benefits

Your payments also depend on your income. The lower your income, the more tax credits you may get.

How can I check if I am eligible?

- Contact the Tax Credit telephone helpline on **0345 300 3900**
- Contact the Jobcentre Plus office on **0800 055 6688**
- Log on to: www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits or www.payingforchildcare.org.uk
- Contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau on **01925 246994**

Free Early Years Entitlement – Three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education usually for 38 weeks of the year, (maximum of 570 hours over a year). This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). This funding is payable to all 3 and 4 year old children regardless of parental income, from the term after the child's third birthday. To access this funding your childcare provider must be registered to deliver early years education.

The early education can be accessed at nursery classes/schools, private nurseries, playgroups, preschools or with an Accredited Childminder

The following conditions apply:-

- 15 hour entitlement over a minimum of two days
- A minimum of 2.5 hours and a maximum of 10 hours can be accessed in any 1 day
- A maximum of two providers at any one time
- Cannot be accessed before 7 am or after 7 pm
- Sessions accessed in no less than half hour blocks

The level of flexibility that is offered will depend on a provider's individual circumstances.

Two year old funding

The two year old free entitlement is a new initiative by the government. It means that free nursery places are available to a **limited number** of two year old children **from the first day of the new term following their second birthday**.

The child would receive up to 15 hours free early years education per week at a private nursery, pre-school, maintained nursery school/class or accredited childminder in Warrington.

Certain criteria does apply, for further information please contact the Families Information Service on **01925 443322** or your registered childcare provider.

Employer Supported Childcare/Childcare Vouchers - Childcare vouchers are a means of paying for childcare – they are one of the ways in which employers can assist employees with childcare costs. A proportion of your pay supplied via childcare vouchers is exempt from tax and National Insurance Contributions (NIC) for employees, so they can help you to save money with your childcare fees. Childcare vouchers are often offered through salary sacrifice schemes and are a great incentive for employees but can affect your overall financial position.

For further information contact your employer, or call the Family & Childcare Trust on **020 7940 7510** or HMRC **0845 300 3900** log onto the following websites www.payingforchildcare.org.uk or www.hmrc.gov.uk/childcare

Sure Start Maternity Grant - You could get a one-off payment of £500 to help towards the costs of having a child. This is known as a Sure Start Maternity Grant.

- You usually [qualify](#) for the grant if: you're expecting your first child - or you're expecting a multiple birth (eg twins) and have children already
- you already get certain [benefits](#)

You must claim the grant within 11 weeks of the baby's due date or within 3 months after the baby's birth.

You don't have to pay the grant back and it won't affect your other benefits or tax credits

If you already have children under 16, you can only get a grant if you're expecting a multiple birth.

Children under 16	Grant if you have twins	Grant if you have triplets
You have 1 or more (and none of them are from multiple births)	£500	£1,000
You've already had twins	£0	£500
You've already had triplets	£0	£0

Usually, to qualify for a Sure Start Maternity Grant there must be no other children in your family and you must be in receipt of certain benefits.

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

To claim contact Jobcentre Plus office on **0800 055 6688** or log onto www.gov.uk.

Healthy Start Vouchers – Healthy Start vouchers enable you to swap the vouchers for milk, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and infant formula. You can also get free vitamins. **You may qualify for the vouchers if you are at least 10 weeks pregnant and/or have at least one child under 4 years old and you or your family get....Income Support, or Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit unless your family is receiving Working Tax Credit run-on only).** You also qualify if you are under 18 and pregnant, even if you don't get any of the above benefits or Tax Credits. To find out if you qualify please contact your midwife or visit www.gov.uk. To claim you'll need to complete an application form and get your midwife, health visitor or registered doctor to sign it. You can request a Healthy Start application form by calling **0845 6076823** and quoting reference HS01 or log onto www.healthystart.nhs.uk.

Maternity Allowance- If you're pregnant or have a new baby but don't qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) from any employer, you may be able to claim Maternity Allowance (MA) through Jobcentre Plus.

To claim contact Jobcentre Plus office on **0800 055 6688** or log onto www.gov.uk.

Child Benefit - Child Benefit is a tax-free payment that you can claim for your child. It is usually paid every four weeks but can sometimes be paid weekly. There are separate rates payable for each child. **Budget 2012** - Child Benefit - Incomes over £50,000 If you, or your partner, have an individual income of more than £50,000 and one of you is entitled to get Child Benefit you might be affected by a new tax charge. There's more information about this on www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefitcharge/

Widowed Parent's /Guardian's Allowance

You may be eligible for the Widowed Parent's Allowance if you're bringing up a child or young person and your husband, wife or civil partner dies. If both of a child's parents die (or, sometimes, just one), their guardian may be able to get Guardian's Allowance. It's a tax-free weekly payment to help with the cost of bringing up a child.

You can order a Bereavement Benefits claim pack (form BB1) over the telephone from your local Job Centre plus office. You can also download it from <https://www.gov.uk/widowed-parents-allowance/how-to-claim> . Fill in the form and send to your local Job Centre Plus office as soon as possible.

Apply by phone

You can make a claim over the telephone by contacting the Bereavement Service.

Bereavement Service

Telephone: 0845 606 0265

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

FINANCIAL HELP FOR STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN

Care to Learn – is a childcare funding scheme for young parents under the age of 20 who wish to start or continue studying. It provides help with paying for registered childcare and travel costs and can also give you access to advice and support. For further information call the Care to Learn helpline on **0800 121 8989** or log onto www.gov.uk.

Other types of funding assistance - There are a range of funding schemes available to students to assist them with childcare/family costs and other course related costs, depending upon the type of course they are studying and individual circumstances.

For further information about what's available and also eligibility criteria please check with your local college/university, or log onto www.gov.uk.

Contacts – for further information:-

- Local colleges - for course and scheme details and application form
- Families Information Service **01925 443322** - childcare
- Careers Advice Service **0800 100 900** – course information
- Jobcentre Plus **0800 055 6688**– further details and application form

Learning Skills Council (LSC) and Learner Support Service (LSS) national helplines: - for further details and application form:

- Learner helpline **0800 121 8989**
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Free School Meals – Applications, further details on free school meals and eligibility are available from Warrington Children and Young People’s Services Directorate on 01925 443322 or http://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/200311/school_meals/480/free_school_meals

Free Pupil & Student Travel – Free transport can be made available to pupils of compulsory school age attending the nearest *appropriate school (*please call 01925 443322 for details). Arrangements for transport assistance on the grounds of special educational needs or disability will be at the local authority’s discretion.

For further details regarding eligibility please call assisted travel to school on **01925 443322**. Or log onto http://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/200315/school_and_college_transport

Are you paying for childcare?

You could be receiving help towards your costs. For information about the financial support available to help you with childcare costs in Warrington, please log onto www.payingforchildcare.org.uk

Changes to your Benefits

The council and its partners have launched a new website to help residents understand the Government’s welfare reforms.

You will find helpful tools such as:

- What are the changes, and who to speak to about your circumstances
- A budget planner
- Information on family support
- How to go green and save money
- Advice about debt issues
- How to get back to work

Please log onto www.warrington.gov.uk/welfarereform

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a new benefit that has started to replace 6 existing benefits with a simpler, single monthly payment if you’re out of work or on a low income.

Universal Credit will help you to be better off in work, start a new job or work more hours.

Universal Credit will eventually replace:

- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has produced a separate guide to [Universal Credit for employers](#).

Universal Credit was introduced on 29 April 2013 in selected areas of Greater Manchester and Cheshire. At this time, your [eligibility to claim Universal Credit](#) depends on where you live and your personal circumstances. If you already claim a benefit, you’ll continue to do so as normal and you’ll be told when Universal Credit will affect you.

Universal Credit will be gradually rolled out to the rest of the UK from October 2013 and will be completed by 2017.

The information contained within this sheet has been extracted from various reliable sources, and whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of printing, it is only intended as a guide. Please contact the relevant organisation for the latest information.

Families Information Service

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Buttermarket Street

Warrington WA1 2NH

Helpline: 01925 443322

Email: fis@warrington.gov.uk

www.warrington.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople

www.warringtonchildren.org

WARRINGTON 
Borough Council