



Young Parent Payment





It is very important that young people stay in or get back into education, training or work-based learning.

We want you to have the skills to get a job that will help you and your family have a better future.

Youth Service

What is Young Parent Payment and who can get it?

Young Parent Payment is a weekly payment for 16 to 18 year old parents who have dependent children, and are in need of financial assistance.

For example, to qualify for Young Parent Payment you may be:

- 16 or 17 years old, living with your parents/ guardian, and they are eligible for Family Tax Credit, or
- 16 or 17 years old and can't live with your parents/ guardian or get financial support from anyone, or
- 18 years old with no partner.

However there are a number of things you must do to get Young Parent Payment. These are listed on pages 6 and 7.

How does Youth Service work?

A mentor or coach from a Youth Service provider will support you to meet your responsibilities to get financial help from us. You will also get the help you need to get work skills and achieve your goals.

Your day-to-day contact will be with the Youth Service provider but Work and Income will make your payments.

To see if you qualify for Young Parent Payment go to **www.youthservice.govt.nz** for more details.

Who are Youth Service providers?

If you are getting Young Parent Payment you have to be working with a Youth Service provider.

Youth Service providers are organisations working in your local community. They are used to working with young people and know where to get the services you may need.

Your relationship with your provider

To get the best results you need to work openly and honestly with your Youth Service provider. They want to help you make good decisions for your future.

You'll need to tell your provider if something changes for you, like where you live, your contact details or if you are in or out of school, training or work as this may affect your payments.

Your provider wants to be sure that you are managing your money and sticking to your plan.

If you are doing the things you should (this is known as meeting your obligations), your provider can recommend that you get extra money through incentive payments.

If you are not meeting your obligations your provider must advise Work and Income who may reduce your payment.



What your provider will help you with

Your provider will make sure you are able to meet your obligations and get the services and support you need to get job skills for the future.

They will meet with you regularly to:

- discuss your needs
- provide ongoing support and guidance
- help you into the education and training that is best for you
- figure out what might be stopping you succeeding at school, training, or work based learning
- make sure you are managing your money well, including helping you with budgeting and the use of your payment card and allowance
- make sure you are living somewhere reasonable and affordable
- help you get your child into early childhood education for when you're in school or training
- help you enrol your child at a Primary Health Organisation (PHO) medical centre or doctor, and with a Well Child provider like Plunket
- link you to other services you might need
- monitor your progress and help you stay on track
- get you back on track if you are not meeting the requirements to get the Young Parent Payment.

Your obligations

Obligations are the things you are responsible for doing if you are getting the Young Parent Payment. If you ever find that you can't do these things, you must talk to your Youth Service provider as soon as possible.

If you don't have a good reason for not meeting your obligations, your payment will be reduced.

Your obligations include:

Working with your Youth Service provider

You must have regular meetings with your Youth Service provider. They are keen to make sure you are sticking to your plan and will be able to help you with any problems.

You must keep your Youth Service provider up to date with any changes in your life.

If your provider thinks you are not doing all the things you are supposed to, they must advise Work and Income who may reduce your payment.

Preparing for your future – education, training and work-based learning

You have to be actively involved in full-time education, training or work-based learning once your youngest child is one year old, or from six months old if there is a place available for you in a Teen Parent Unit.

You can be going to school or doing an approved training course.

You must go to classes and meet all the course requirements, like handing in assignments and sitting exams.



Work-based learning is where you are doing an approved training programme as part of your job.

There is money available to help you with childcare costs. Your provider will talk to you about getting this.

Budgeting

You will need to complete a budgeting course. Your Youth Service provider will find a suitable course for you.

You will also need to have regular meetings with your provider to talk about how you are spending your money.

Parenting

To help you as a parent, you have to complete a parenting course. Your Youth Service provider will find a suitable course for you.

It is important that your child can get medical care when they need it so you have to enrol them at a Primary Health Organisation medical centre or doctor.

You also have to register and have regular health checks with a Well Child provider, like Plunket, to keep your child up to date until they are five years old.

While you are in education, training or doing part-time work your child has to go to an early childhood education programme or be in suitable childcare.

Money management

Your provider will help you manage your payments and make sure all your important costs are paid.

This includes:

- paying your rent or board and things like your power bill and some debts straight from your Young Parent Payment. You won't get this money yourself
- a weekly allowance of up to \$50 paid into your bank account
- putting what's left of your Young Parent Payment onto a payment card. This is like a debit card that you use to buy your food and groceries from an approved store.

Your Youth Service provider will arrange the payment of your rent and bills with you and give you a payment card.

If you get some other financial assistance like the Disability Allowance, this may be paid straight to your bank account.

You can get the chance to manage your entire Young Parent Payment yourself if you show your Youth Service provider that you can do it responsibly.

Once you have proven you are capable of managing your money yourself, your payment will go straight to your bank account and you will be responsible for paying all your own costs.

Incentives



When you have successfully been in education, training or work-based learning for six months you can get an extra \$10 a week.

If you finish a budgeting course and have regular budget talks with your Youth Service provider for three months, you can get an extra \$10 a week.

You can get a further \$10 a week if you meet all your parenting requirements without fail for three months.

Once you are getting the extra payments you need to keep up the good work. You will lose the incentive payments if you don't.

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If you don't meet your obligations without good reason, your Youth Service provider must advise Work and Income who may reduce your payment.



What happens if you don't meet your obligations?

The **first** and **second** time you don't meet your obligations your weekly allowance will be suspended and any extra incentive payments you have earned will be stopped. You have four weeks to put it right. If you still have not done what is required your ongoing access to the Young Parent Payment will be looked at.

If it happens a **third** time, half of your Young Parent Payment will be stopped immediately. Any extra payments you have earned will also stop.

There may be a time when you can't meet your obligations. In such situations you may still be able to get your Young Parent Payment if you talk it through with your provider.

Extra support

Earning extra money

Your main focus should be on taking care of your child or children and getting the skills to get a job. However, you can receive extra income or do some part-time work. You can earn up to just over \$200 before your Young Parent Payment is affected.

Talk to your Youth Service provider about how earning extra income could affect your payments.

Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment

The Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment (GCAP) can be used to help pay for childcare for children under five years old.

It can only be used for the childcare you need while you are in education, training, work-based learning or doing part-time work, or when you are doing your parenting or budgeting course.

GCAP is paid directly to your early childhood centre or service. This could be a kindergarten, playcentre, Kōhanga Reo or a licensed early childcare centre. It will pay up to \$6.00 an hour for up to 50 hours a week. You may also get 20 hours of early childhood education (known as 20 Hours ECE).

You can use a combination of the 20 Hours ECE and GCAP, but you can't get both for the same hours.



Additional support

There may be other financial support you can get to help you out from time to time. Talk to your Youth Service provider about what could be available for you. Further information is available on www.workandincome.govt.nz.

My Account

My Account is an online tool that will show you how much is paid into your bank account, how much is on your payment card and how much has been paid for things like rent, power or other debts.

You can access My Account through www.youthservice.govt.nz.

If you don't have a My Account, talk to your provider about setting one up online.

You can choose to get updates about your payments by text or by letter.

Contacting you

You must keep your Youth Service provider up to date with your contact information and tell them if you move house or change your phone number.

If you move to another town you will be changed to a new Youth Service provider. They will get in touch with you to arrange a meeting to talk about your plan and how they can support you.



Leaving Youth Service

Once you turn 19 years old you will finish working with your Youth Service provider and your Young Parent Payment will stop, unless:

- you have not received the Young Parent Payment for six months before you turn 19, or
- you turn 19 and decide to stay in education, training or work-based learning. You can then choose to continue with your Young Parent Payment for a limited time.

Your provider will work with you to make sure you know what you need to do when this happens.

If you need financial assistance after leaving Youth Service you can contact Work and Income.

Complaints and disputes

If you want to make a complaint about your Youth Service provider or have any changes to your payments reviewed you should first talk to your provider. If you can't find a solution you can then make a complaint to Work and Income on 0800 559 009.

www.youthservice.govt.nz



www.youthservice.co.nz

newzealand.govt.nz