

Government Financial Support

There are several different types of benefits that you may be entitled to. The types of benefits are listed here:

- **Job Seeker Support (JSS)** – those who can work fulltime and are taking reasonable steps to look for work. Job Seeker Support with Medical deferral – those who have a health condition, injury or disability that limits their ability to work but can work part-time or those who can't work at all but can work part-time or fulltime within 2 years.
- **Sole Parent Support (SPS)** – those who care for children under the age of 14 and can look for or prepare for part-time work. Those who have children under 3 are expected to carry out agreed activities to help them prepare for work.
- **Supported Living Payment (SLP)** – for people who are permanently and severely restricted in their capacity to work (incapable of working 15 hours or less in an open employment for over 2 years) because of a health condition or disability. People who are totally blind, terminally ill, have severe intellectual or cognitive impairment and normally require residential, hospital, rest home, or extended care services.
- **Supported Living Payment Carer (SLP) Carer** – Clients who are on a JSS or SPS who want to care for a person who is on SLP. Carers of a spouse or partner don't qualify for this. The person will require 24-hours access to care and attention. If the person does not need fulltime care and attention the carer isn't eligible for SLP Carer but may qualify for another benefit.
- **Emergency Benefit** – for clients who are not eligible for another benefit and are unable to earn sufficient livelihood due to a health condition, an injury or a disability; domestic circumstance such as caring responsibilities; age 16 or 17 years old and any other reason such as residential status.

Extra help

- **Accommodation Supplement** – To assist low-income people with high accommodation costs.
- **Disability Allowance** – Assist people with high medical costs for any conditions, injury or disability over 6 months.
- **Child Disability Allowance** - paid to the principal caregiver of a dependent child who has a physical, sensory, psychiatric, or intellectual disability and will need constant care and attention because of their disability. The constant care and attention is likely to need permanent care or need care for more than 12 months.
- **Temporary Additional Support** - is a non-taxable supplement that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks to assist the client with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources. Client must ensure they take reasonable steps towards reducing their costs or reducing their chargeable income.
- **Transition to Work Grant** – Non-taxable, non-recoverable payment to help meet additional costs essential for transitioning into employment. Essential costs include job related clothing, transport costs, tools, relocation costs, and bridging finance to cover essential living expenses till they get their first pay.
- **New Employment Transition Grant** – client must have had their benefit cancelled or suspended (within the last 6 months) and have dependent children and are unable to work because they are sick, their partner or dependent children are sick and are not entitled to sick leave with their new employment.

How to apply for financial support through Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ)

Applying online

Complete and submit your application online through the work and income website www.workandincome.govt.nz

The online application will work out the type of financial assistance you may be eligible for. You will then be advised to either:

- Meet with a case manager
- print and post your application and supporting documents
- wait for WINZ to contact you.

You may need to complete a Self-Assessment questionnaire as part of your application. You will be advised if you need to complete one.

What documents will I need?

Medical Certificate

You will need a medical certificate from your doctor to tell WINZ how your health condition or disability affects your ability to work. Most GPs now send medical certificates electronically to Work and Income.

If you already have a Work and Income client number, make sure your doctor includes that on the certificate. You will need to bring or send in your medical certificate if your doctor is unable to do it electronically.

Supporting Documents

You will need to have your supporting documents ready to bring to your appointment with a Case Manager. This will help to speed up the application process.

These will be returned to you once it is scanned and recorded.

- Online Application reference number – make a note of your application reference number and bring it with you
- Proof of identity - You must bring the following identification, with one of the documents being at least two years old:

If you were born in New Zealand - one type of official identification that has your full legal name and your date of birth (for example, your birth certificate, passport, driver licence, firearms licence, deed poll)

If you were born overseas - proof that you have a right to live in New Zealand (for example, a citizenship certificate, a New Zealand passport, a

passport from another country with residence class visa or proof of permanent residence)

If your name has changed - your marriage certificate, deed poll, or other proof of the name change

- You will also need to bring **two more additional documents** to prove your identity. (E.g. a marriage cert, bank statement, phone account or driver licence).
- proof of your bank account details, such as a bank statement or deposit slip
- a form or letter from Inland Revenue showing your tax number or a myIR printout which also shows their web address and logo
- Your earning details for the past 12 months by way of your payslips if your recently been made redundant or request the earning details from Inland Revenue

Documents for specific benefits

You will also need to bring the following if you are applying for:

Jobseeker Support:

- Current CV or;
- details of your work qualifications (for example, training certificates and references from employers)
- a medical certificate and a completed Self-Assessment questionnaire if you have a health condition, injury or disability that stops you working full-time.

Supported Living Payment:

If you are applying because of a health condition, injury or disability you need to bring:

- a medical certificate from a medical practitioner or
- existing reports or assessments (for example, a Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC) or a report from a specialist).
- You may also need to complete a Self-Assessment questionnaire.

If you're applying because you're caring for someone who would otherwise require hospital care, or a similar level of care:

- a medical certificate for the person you're caring for, completed by a registered medical practitioner - in most cases the usual doctor or specialist of the person being cared for.

Disability Allowance:

- proof of health-related costs
- a Disability Allowance medical certificate.

Accommodation Supplement:

- proof of health related costs
- proof of accommodation costs
- proof of your assets and value

Temporary Additional Support:

- proof of any essential ongoing costs
- proof of accommodation costs
- proof of your assets and their value

Childcare assistance:

- proof of your assets and their value
- proof of your work, course, study and number of hours (for example, a letter from an employer, an employment contract or a confirmation of study proof of accommodation costs)
- have your childcare service or OSCAR programme supervisor to complete a given form

Depending on your situation, you may also need to bring:

- Proof of any before tax income for the 52 weeks, before the application (for example, wages, holiday pay and any other income) and details of your income for the last 26 weeks
- full birth certificates for each dependent child in your care
- proof of any other essential ongoing costs (for example hire purchases)
- proof of your assets and their value
- your business accounts, if you have your own business
- trust documents, if you are involved in a trust (for example, trust deed, deed of debt, gift statements, accounts).

If you have a partner, you must bring your partner's:

- two forms of identification (for example, birth certificate, passport or driver licence)
- proof of any name change (for example, deed poll or marriage or civil union certificate)
- proof of their bank account details (for example, a bank statement with their account number) proof of their tax number such as a form or letter from Inland Revenue or a myIR printout which also shows Inland Revenue's web address and logo
- proof of any before-tax income for the 52 weeks, before the application (for example, wages, holiday pay and any other income) and details of their income for the last 26 weeks.

Submitting your application

You will need to print out your application and sign it (you will get the option to print this online).

If you didn't print out your application or don't have a printer, Call 0800 559 009 to have a copy of your application posted out to you. If you have a spouse/partner they will also need to sign the 'Client obligations' part of the application. You will need to print this part of the application and have your spouse/partner sign this if they're not coming with you to your appointment.

Useful contacts and sources

If you have any questions about benefits and entitlements, visit the Work and Income website for more information or ring their Contact Centre (0800 559 009).

- www.employment.govt.nz
- www.employment.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/tools-and-resources/publications/leave-and-holidays.pdf
- www.kiwisaver.govt.nz
- www.workandincome.govt.nz

Please note: this document is a guide only. Some benefits are income tested and due to the different circumstances of each individual, the financial assistance you qualify for may differ. To find out which benefit may be available to you, you can complete an eligibility test online before you submit an application. Alternatively, you can phone WINZ speak to a case worker.