

Best Start Grant – Pregnancy and Baby Payments – Research Group

Thank you for your interest in the Pregnancy and Baby payments which will be rolling out across Scotland before Christmas.

As we move into the next phase of the benefit, where we're bringing in early learning and school payments as well as the Best Start Food scheme to replace Healthy Start vouchers, we're keen to get feedback from people like yourselves to make sure the system we design works for the people of Scotland.

How can you help?

We are a team of user researchers from the Scottish Government hoping to set up research sessions through your organisation. We are looking to speak to the citizens you work with so that we can develop the Best Start Grant (BSG) service, which will replace Sure Start Maternity Grant and Healthy Start Vouchers for people in Scotland.

We want to learn about people's experience of applying for Sure Start Maternity Grant or Healthy Start Vouchers so that we can make the application process for BSG straightforward and accessible for everyone. We also want to speak to people who might be eligible for BSG so that we can understand the barriers they face getting information about benefits, or accessing government services. This includes parents with young children who may be on a low-income, as well as midwives and people who offer families advice on benefits or money.

Why should you take part?

Taking part in this research is a great way for you to champion the voices of the people you work with and ensure the new social security system will meet their needs. Plus, you'll get to see parts of the Best Start Grant service before they are launched, and your feedback will be used to design how Best Start Grant works.

The sessions can also be catered to work for you. We can come along to an existing social or support group and have a chat over coffee and cake, or we can organise one-off sessions in a location that's convenient. We can be flexible on the day, leading small group discussions and focus groups, or working with individuals or in pairs. The conversation is always informal, whether we're learning about people's experiences or asking them to test an application form.

Where do I sign up?

If you want to get involved, or if you have any questions about taking part, please email christine.gilmore@gov.scot and we can have a chat about what might work for you.