

**Physical & Postal Address:**

Christchurch Community House  
301 Tuam St, Christchurch Central 8011

**Office Phone:** (03) 379 8787

**Email:** [bas.cprc@gmail.com](mailto:bas.cprc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [bas.org.nz](http://bas.org.nz)

**Facebook:** [@BeneficiaryAdvisoryService](https://www.facebook.com/BeneficiaryAdvisoryService)

## **Grants available from Work and Income<sup>i</sup>**

- There are a number of grants that Work and Income may be able to provide if you meet the income limit (see end of document for income limits)<sup>ii</sup>.
- You do not need to be a beneficiary to receive these, and you may not have to pay the money back. The amounts listed here are guideline limits and they will not generally pay more than this, but can if exceptional circumstances exist.
- For Work and Income, a couple is defined as someone who is married, or in a civil union or de-facto relationship<sup>iii</sup>.
- We would note that, if you want to apply for these costs, don't pay for them first, but take the invoice into Work and Income, as they won't reimburse any costs already paid for. Sometimes they will give you a foodgrant if you have paid for other costs, but that is not guaranteed.

### **Special Needs Grants (Food Grants):**

If you meet the income limit you are entitled to the following amounts in Special Needs Grants each year:

- (a) \$200 for a single person with no dependent children
- (b) \$300 for a couple with no dependent children
- (c) \$450 for a couple or a sole parent with 1 or 2 dependent children
- (d) \$550 for a couple or a sole parent with 3 or more dependent children

If you are applying for your first or second grant in a year, and you already have a Payment Card, then you should be able to apply for a grant on myMSD or over the phone. If you are applying for your third (or more) grant in a year you may need to visit a Work and Income office. You may be asked to prove that you need a food grant because you have had to meet another essential expense (this does not have to be an unexpected cost, though your casemanager may say it does). You can expect to be asked to provide receipts to verify this expenditure, and you may be asked to attend a budgeting course.

Special Needs Grants for Food do **NOT** need to be paid back.

**Work and Income may also be able to help with the following if you are on a low income or benefit:**

- **Ambulance fees**
  - If you are charged a fee for an ambulance call out you may be able to receive assistance for this.
  - You **MAY** have to pay this back.
- **Bedding**
  - You may be entitled to a grant of up to \$200 for bedding if you or someone in your immediate family has a long-term sickness or disability that causes extra wear and tear on bed linen **OR** You have a new baby or adopt a child into your family.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back.
- **Bereavement**
  - You may be able to get help to pay for funeral expenses. A grant of up to \$2,030.91 is available. This money can be used for costs such as:
    - professional services for preparing the body for cremation or burial (e.g. embalming)
    - the cost of a casket
    - newspaper death notice costs
    - hearse fees
    - compulsory fees for buying a burial plot
    - cremation fees
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back.
  - If you can't afford to travel to a funeral or tangi you may be entitled to a grant to cover the costs.
  - To see if you are eligible refer to:  
<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/recoverable-assistance-payment/attendance-at-funerals-and-tangihanga-01.html>
  - The amount available will depend on your circumstances and you **WILL** have to pay this back.
- **Car repairs**
  - If you need to make repairs to your car, you may be entitled to assistance if the car is essential for you or your dependent partner and children because of illness, disability, employment, or lack of access to public transport. The guideline limit for this is \$400.
  - Work and Income will generally **NOT** help with costs such as fuel, warrant of fitness, car insurance, car registration or for regular servicing costs.
  - You **WILL** have to pay this back.

- **Child restraints for motor vehicles or cycle helmets**
  - You may be able to receive assistance to purchase or hire an approved child restraint for dependent children under the age of 7.
  - You may be able to receive assistance to purchase cycle helmets for dependent school age children.
  - This can be up to \$200 in most cases.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Clothing**
  - You may be able to receive assistance with essential clothing (excluding school uniforms – see below).
    - Single people without dependent children can receive up to \$150
    - Couples without dependent children can receive up to \$300
    - Couples or Sole parents with dependent children can receive up to \$400
  - This **WILL** need to be paid back.
- **Drivers licence**
  - You may be able to apply for a grant to pay for the cost of applying and being tested for a learner licence, a restricted licence, or a full licence.
  - You **WILL** generally need to pay this back, however sometimes Work and Income will pay for this as a non-recoverable grant when this will help a jobseeker acquire work.
- **Dental treatment**
  - Up to \$300 is available for emergency dental treatment.
  - You do **NOT** have to pay this grant back.
  - Assistance is available for further or non-emergency dental treatment and
  - You **MAY** need to pay this back.
- **Electricity, gas or water bills**
  - You may be entitled to assistance with outstanding electricity, gas or water bills.
  - You may be entitled to assistance to pay for the reconnection of electricity, gas or water.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Fire or theft**
  - If you need help replacing essential items after a fire or theft you may be able to claim assistance up to \$1000 to help with costs such as: whiteware (see below), beds, and a couch.
  - You **MAY** need to pay this back.

- **Furniture**
  - Assistance is available to pay for beds (including beds for babies) tables and chairs.
  - You will need to supply Work and Income with a quote from new or second-hand dealers or retailers.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Glasses**
  - If you need glasses you may be able to apply for a grant to pay for these.
  - There is a preferred supplier arrangement in place for glasses and so you **MUST** visit the supplier specified by Work and Income.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Housing:**
  - Assistance is available to pay a bond and rent advance, or rent arrears.
  - The guideline limit for this is \$600.
  - Alternatively, you can receive assistance towards essential maintenance or repairs on your house or property or essential services.
  - As a guideline, the limit for this is \$1000.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Identification document fees**
  - You may be entitled to apply for a grant of up to \$500 towards the application fee for a New Zealand birth certificate or for a document of identification if your birth certificate is not registered in New Zealand
  - You **MAY** have to pay this back
- **Laser therapy for the removal of birthmarks**
  - If you have a birthmark that is disfiguring and visible in normal clothing (as verified by a medical practitioner) you may be entitled to up to \$300 for the costs, including travel costs, associated with laser treatment for the removal of the birthmark.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this grant back.
- **Long-acting reversible contraception**
  - You or your dependent children may be entitled to one or more grants of up to \$500 for the costs of obtaining or removing subsidised long-acting reversible contraception.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay these grants back.

- **Medical treatment**
  - Up to \$300 is available towards the costs of emergency medical treatment (including doctors' fees, prescription charges or hospital care).
  - You may be entitled to up to \$300 (up to \$400 for a child) if you are referred to a secondary health service by your GP or another doctor. This grant is for health travel costs and can include travel expenses for a return journey of more than 8 kilometres to the place of treatment, assessment, or services; and the cost of accommodation and meals if an overnight stay away from home is necessary.
  - If your spouse, partner or child needs medical assistance overseas, you may be entitled to a grant to cover the costs of reasonable overseas air fares, accommodation and living expenses so that you can be with them.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back.
- **Repair and maintenance of on-site effluent treatment systems**
  - You may be entitled to a grant of up to \$300 towards the cost of the repair or maintenance of an on-site effluent treatment system e.g. a septic tank, a long drop toilet, and a compost based toilet.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back
- **School costs**
  - You may be entitled to assistance with school costs for dependent children. These can include:
    - computing equipment (eg. lap top or iPad)
    - school activity fees
    - school camps
    - school trips
    - stationary
  - You need to demonstrate that the school will not assist and that you would suffer serious hardship without this assistance.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **School uniforms**
  - You may be entitled to assistance with school uniform costs of up to \$300 per dependent child.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Sole Parents who experience family violence**
  - If you are the victim of family violence and are being assisted by a social service agency you may be entitled to a grant of up to \$800 for accommodation, bond, or a rent advance.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.

- **Sole Parents who experience family violence cont.**
  - You may also be entitled to up to \$600 for beds, bedding and essential appliances, and for the costs of connecting telephone, electricity and gas.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back.
- **Telephone installation**
  - You may be entitled to assistance with installing a phone if it is essential for the maintenance of your or your partner's, or your dependent child's health (this can be a medical or a psychological condition).
  - You may be entitled to assistance with installing a phone if you are geographically isolated.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back.
- **Tenancy tribunal fees**
  - You may be entitled to assistance with the \$20.44 tenancy tribunal application fee.
  - You **WILL** need to pay this back
- **Vasectomies and Termination of Pregnancies**
  - You may be able to claim up to \$300 towards the costs of travel, accommodation and surgery for the termination of pregnancy or a vasectomy.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back
- **Wigs and hairpieces**
  - You may be entitled to a grant of up to \$300 towards the cost of a wig or hairpiece if you suffer from a medical condition or are undergoing medical treatment and would like to wear a wig or hairpiece for cosmetic reasons.
  - You do **NOT** need to pay this back
- **Whiteware**
  - If you need a fridge-freezer, freezer and/ or washing machine you may be able to apply for a grant to for these.
  - There is a preferred supplier arrangement in place for whiteware. Clients **MUST** purchase their whiteware from the set range offered by Fisher & Paykel (current preferred supplier).
  - You **WILL** have to pay this back.

More detailed information about these grants can be found at:  
<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/index.html>

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<sup>i</sup> **Note this information is correct as of August 2017 but is subject to change.**

<sup>ii</sup> **Income limits (excluding disability allowance income)**

	<b>Per week</b>
For a single person aged 16 or 17 years without dependent children	\$480.03
For any other single person without dependent children	\$551.70
For a person who is married or in a civil union or in a de facto relationship with or without dependent children	\$801.31
For a sole parent with 1 dependent child	\$669.46
For any other sole parent	\$705.31

**Disability allowance income limits**

	<b>Per week</b>
For a single person aged 16 or 17 years without dependent children	\$518.76
For any other single person without dependent children	\$629.04
For a person who is married or in a civil union or in a de facto relationship with or without dependent children	\$933.59
For a sole parent with 1 dependent child	\$723.49
For any other sole parent	\$762.26

<sup>iii</sup> **Definition of an MTR**

A de-facto or “marriage type relationship” (MTR) for benefit purposes is defined as one where two people consider themselves a couple: have financial interdependence (a willingness to financially support each other, should that become necessary), and a continuing, mutual emotional commitment (both want to be in this serious relationship for the foreseeable future).