

Working Tax Credit

If you have Parkinson's, you may have some concerns about how you will manage financially. If you can't work or if you need help with your day-to-day needs, this can lead to extra costs. But there is some financial support available, so it's important to find out what benefits you're entitled to.

This sheet explains what Working Tax Credit is, who qualifies, how to claim and what information you need to supply.

What is Working Tax Credit?

Working Tax Credit is a payment to top up the earnings of working people on low incomes, including those who don't have children.

There are extra amounts if someone in the household has a disability, including Parkinson's. It is available whether you are employed or self-employed, and includes support for the costs of qualifying childcare. Usually, you can't receive Working Tax Credit if neither you nor your partner is working.

Working Tax Credit is administered and paid by HM Revenue & Customs.

Do I qualify for Working Tax Credit?

You may qualify for Working Tax Credit if, at the time you make your claim, you:

- are in paid work, and
- expect to work for at least four weeks, and
- are aged 16 or over, responsible for at least one child and work at least 16 hours a week, or
- are aged 16 or over, have a disability (including Parkinson's) which puts you at a disadvantage in getting a job, are receiving some form of disability benefit and work at least 16 hours a week, or
- are aged 25 or over and work at least 30 hours a week, or

- are aged 50 or over, are returning to work after time spent on qualifying out-of-work benefits and work at least 16 hours a week, or
- are aged 60 or over and work at least 16 hours a week.

There are detailed rules that apply to people with disabilities and to people aged 50 or over who are returning to work after a period on benefits. These are explained in the notes that come with the claim-form (TC600).

Can I get help with the costs of childcare if I'm working?

You may qualify for extra help towards the costs of registered or approved childcare. The guidance notes that accompany the claim-form will tell you what types of childcare are approved.

You can only get this if you are working at least 16 hours a week. If you are part of a couple, both you and your partner must each work at least 16 hours, unless one of you is prevented from working due to incapacity or being in hospital.

The childcare element of Working Tax Credit is worth up to 70p in tax credit for every £1 a week you spend on approved childcare. This means you will receive 70% of what you spend on childcare as Working Tax Credit. For example, if you spend £100 a week on childcare, the childcare element would be worth up to £70 in tax credit. If you spend £40 a week, the childcare element would be worth up to £28.

You can claim up to a limit of £175 a week if you have one child and up to £300 a week for two or more children.

So, the maximum childcare element you can get is either:

- £122.50 a week (which is 70% of £175) for one child, or
- £210 a week (which is 70% of £300) for two or more children

Your childcare element is added to the maximum amount of Working Tax Credit you could get if your

income is below a set threshold. The final amount you get will depend on your actual income (or joint income, if you are part of a couple).

How much is Working Tax Credit?

The amount of Working Tax Credit you receive will be based on your circumstances – for example how many hours you normally work and your income. Working Tax Credit is paid in addition to any Child Tax Credit you may be entitled to.

The elements of Working Tax Credit used to calculate the amount you get include:

- a basic element, paid to everyone who is eligible
- lone parent and couple elements, which recognise the additional needs of these groups
- a thirty-hour element to provide people with an incentive to increase their hours towards full-time work
- elements to recognise when people might be at a disadvantage when trying to find work – for example if they have a disability or if they are 50 or older and are trying to find employment after time off work
- an element to help with childcare costs (see above)

The amount of tax credits you receive will depend upon your annual income.

How is Working Tax Credit paid?

Working Tax Credit is generally paid to the person who is working. If both you and your partner work 16 hours or more a week, you must choose who will receive it. HM Revenue & Customs will pay it directly into your bank account.

If you receive the childcare element of Working Tax Credit, this will always be paid directly to the person who is mainly responsible for caring for the child or children, alongside payments of Child Tax Credit.

Do I need a bank account?

All people receiving tax credits need to have a bank account.

Find out more: if you don't have a bank account, have a look at our information sheet *General information about benefits*. This explains how to get a bank account.

How do I claim Working Tax Credit?

You can call HM Revenue & Customs' Tax Credit Helpline on **0845 300 3900** or textphone **0845 300 3909** (8am–8pm every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Calls are charged at local call rates).

What do I need to make a claim for tax year 2011–2012?

For tax credit awards beginning in April 2011, you will have to provide:

- your income details (and those of your partner) for the tax year 2010–2011 (that is, from 6 April 2010 to 5 April 2011) as this is the last complete tax year for which you should have details of your income
- your National Insurance number (and that of your partner)

Payments for the year 2011–2012 are based on an estimate of your income for that tax year. That estimate is based upon your income for the previous tax year. At the end of the 2011–2012 tax year, a finalised award will be made based on that year's actual income.

To help you claim, you should keep any information you have or are sent about your income during the tax years 2010–2011 and 2011–2012. For example, you should keep:

- your P60 tax certificate given to you by your employer after the end of the tax year, and your form P11D or P9D (if you receive one)
- any statements your bank and/or building society send you of taxable interest received in that year

- details of your taxable profits or losses for that year, if you were self-employed

More information and support

We have information sheets on other benefits you may be entitled to. You can download these from our website at parkinsons.org.uk or see the back page of this sheet for details of how to order these for free.

Our helpline

For more help and information on rights and benefits, you can contact our dedicated employment and benefits adviser on the Parkinson's UK helpline on **0808 800 0303** (calls are free from UK landlines and most mobile networks) or email hello@parkinsons.org.uk

Information and support workers

Our UK-wide network of information and support workers can also provide details about benefits and help you with the application process. You can find your local information and support worker online at parkinsons.org.uk/isw or call our helpline for details.

Local groups

Speak to others about their experiences at your local Parkinson's UK group. Visit parkinsons.org.uk/localgroups or call our helpline for details of your nearest meeting.

Online forum

Speak to others in a similar situation through our online discussion forum at parkinsons.org.uk/forum

Thank you

Thank you to Disability Alliance for updating this information sheet.



Working Tax Credit

If you have comments or suggestions about this information sheet, we'd love to hear from you. This will help us ensure that we are providing as good a service as possible.

We'd be very grateful if you could complete this form and return it to [Information Resources, Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ](#). Or you can email us at publications@parkinsons.org.uk. Thanks!

Please tick...

- I have Parkinson's. When were you diagnosed?
- I'm family/a friend/a carer of someone with Parkinson's
- I'm a professional working with people with Parkinson's

Where did you get this information sheet from?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GP, specialist or Parkinson's nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Information and support worker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parkinson's UK local group or event | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordered from us directly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our website | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

We're the Parkinson's support and research charity. Help us find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.

Can you help?

At Parkinson's UK, we are totally dependent on donations from individuals and organisations to fund the work that we do. There are many ways that you can help us to support people with Parkinson's. If you would like to get involved, please contact our Supporter Services team on **020 7932 1303** or visit our website at **parkinsons.org.uk/support**. Thank you.

Parkinson's UK

Free* confidential helpline **0808 800 0303**

Monday to Friday 9am–8pm, Saturday 10am–2pm. Interpreting available.

Text Relay **18001 0808 800 0303**

(for textphone users only)

hello@parkinsons.org.uk

parkinsons.org.uk

*calls are free from UK landlines and most mobile networks.

How to order our resources

01473 212115

resources@parkinsons.org.uk

parkinsons.org.uk/publications

We make every effort to make sure that our services provide up-to-date, unbiased and accurate facts. We hope that these will add to any professional advice you receive and will help you to make any decisions you may face. Please do continue to talk to your health and social care team if you are worried about any aspect of living with Parkinson's.

References for this information sheet can be found in the Microsoft Word version at **parkinsons.org.uk/publications**

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How useful have you found the information sheet? (1 is not useful, 4 is very useful) 1 2 3 4

Have you found the publication easy to read/use? Yes No

What aspects did you find most helpful?

Were you looking for any information that wasn't covered?

Do you have any other comments?

If you would like to become a member of Parkinson's UK, or are interested in joining our information review group, please complete the details below and we'll be in touch.

Membership Information review group (who give us feedback on new and updated resources)

Name

Address

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