

Working and raising a family?

See if you qualify for extra money...



WORKING FOR
families

Me whakaruruhau te iwi

Inland Revenue · Work and Income



Working for Families is a package designed to help make it easier for you to work and raise a family.

Here's a quick guide to what you may qualify for. To find out more, go to www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

Help with family costs

Working for Families Tax Credits are paid to families with children aged 18 years or under to help with the cost of raising a family.

Working for Families Tax Credits are paid by Inland Revenue and include four types of payments. You may qualify for one or more depending on your personal situation.

The table below shows how much you can earn and still receive Working for Families Tax Credits.

The amounts are based on your eldest child being aged 15 years or under and all other children being aged 12 years or under. If you have older children, you may be able to earn more and still be eligible.

Annual income limits (before tax) from 1 October 2010:

Number of children	Annual income		
	Family tax credit	In-work tax credit	Parental tax credit
1	\$59,717	\$75,317	\$114,424
2	\$75,627	\$91,227	\$130,334
3	\$91,537	\$107,137	\$146,244
4	\$107,447	\$126,947	\$166,054
5	\$123,357	\$146,757	\$185,864
6	\$139,267	\$166,567	\$205,674

Family tax credit

This provides ongoing financial support for families. How much you get depends on how much you earn, the number of children you have, their ages, and any shared care arrangements. You may not qualify for this payment if you receive a foster care allowance, orphans' benefit, unsupported child's benefit or parent's allowance.

The table below shows the weekly family tax credit rates that apply from 1 October 2010:

Age/number of children	
First child if under 16	\$88.00
First child if 16 or over	\$101.00
Subsequent child rate if under 13	\$61.00
Subsequent child rate if 13 to 15	\$69.00
Subsequent child rate if 16 or over	\$91.00

Work and Income can pay family tax credit to families receiving a benefit.

In-work tax credit

In-work tax credit pays up to \$60 a week for families with three children, and up to an extra \$15 a week for each other child.

To get in-work tax credit couples must normally work 30 hours a week between them, and a single parent must normally work 20 hours a week.

Provided you work the required hours, you may also get in-work tax credit if you're self-employed, receiving paid parental leave or accident compensation. It's not available to families receiving an income-tested benefit or student allowance.

Minimum family tax credit

If your annual family income is \$21,216 or less after tax, you may be able to get minimum family tax credit. This payment tops up your family's income to at least \$408 a week after tax (rates apply from 1 October 2010). To get this payment, at least one parent must be working for salary or wages. Two-parent families need to work at least 30 hours a week between them, and a single parent needs to work at least 20 hours a week.

Parental tax credit

This payment helps with the costs of a new baby for the first eight weeks after your baby is born. You could get up to \$1,200 (in total) depending on your family income. How much you get also depends on the type of income your family received in the first eight weeks after your baby was born.

Working for Families Tax Credits (WFFTC) and the independent earner tax credit (IETC)

You can't receive WFFTC and IETC at the same time. If you're using an ME or ME SL tax code and are entitled to WFFTC, you'll need to change your tax code with your employer when you apply for WFFTC.

Online services

With online services, you can view and update your Working for Families Tax Credits details online.

It's secure, easy to use, and available day and night, seven days a week. And, if you update your details, you can see any new entitlements straight away.

Visit www.ird.govt.nz and select "Login" from Secure online services.

Help with childcare costs

You may qualify for help with your childcare costs from Work and Income.

Childcare subsidy

This can help with childcare costs for children under five (or under six if you get a Child Disability Allowance). You may also be able to get help with up to 50 hours of childcare a week while you're working.

OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) subsidy

This is for children aged 5 to 13 years. It can help with the costs of before and after school care (up to 20 hours a week) and care during the school holidays (up to 50 hours a week).

To qualify, your income has to be under a certain limit:

If you have...	and your family's weekly income before tax is less than...	the subsidy per child per hour is up to...
1 child	\$1,200	\$3.77
1 child	\$1,300	\$2.62
1 child	\$1,400	\$1.46
2 children	\$1,380	\$3.77
2 children	\$1,490	\$2.62
2 children	\$1,600	\$1.46
3+ children	\$1,540	\$3.77
3+ children	\$1,670	\$2.62
3+ children	\$1,800	\$1.46

Help with housing costs

The Accommodation Supplement from Work and Income can help with the costs of your rent, board, mortgage and other essential housing costs.

To qualify, your income has to be below a certain amount, depending on where you live:

if you are...	your weekly income before tax will need to be under...			
	area 1	area 2	area 3	area 4
Single with no children	\$938	\$758	\$618	\$538
Married or civil union couple with no children	\$1,183	\$1,043	\$843	\$763
Sole parent with 1 child	\$1,118	\$978	\$778	\$698
Sole parent with 2 or more children	\$1,378	\$1,138	\$958	\$778
Married or civil union couple with children	\$1,443	\$1,203	\$1,023	\$843

Income limits current at 1 April 2010.

Areas-

- 1: North/Central Auckland (urban zones).
- 2: West/South Auckland, Tauranga, Wellington, Nelson, Queenstown and other locations.
- 3: Whangarei, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Napier, Hastings, Palmerston North, Porirua, Upper/Lower Hutt, Christchurch, Dunedin and other locations.
- 4: All areas not covered by Areas 1–3.

This isn't a complete list. The area that applies to you depends on exactly where you live. For more details, visit www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

How much you get depends on a range of things, such as your income, assets and housing costs.

You may not qualify for the Accommodation Supplement if your mortgage is with Housing Corporation or you rent from Housing New Zealand.

There are also other conditions, so to find out more please call **0800 774 004** or visit www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

Other help when you're working

Here's some of the other government assistance you may qualify for.

Help with health costs

The Community Services Card makes it cheaper for you and your family to visit the doctor and get prescriptions. Call the Community Services Card centre on **0800 999 999** for more details.

You may also qualify for the Pharmaceutical Subsidy Card if you need a lot of prescriptions—speak with your pharmacist about this.

Help for people with disabilities

If you, your child or someone you're caring for has a disability, you may be able to get the Disability Allowance to help with costs. Call Work and Income on **0800 559 009** for more details.

Help with essential needs

If you're finding it difficult to make ends meet you may qualify for the Special Needs Grant, Temporary Additional Support, or Recoverable Assistance Payment Grant, to help with your essential costs, like food or urgent dental care. Call Work and Income on **0800 559 009** for more details.

For Working for Families Tax Credits information or a registration pack call **0800 257 477** or visit www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

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To see if you're eligible for more money through Working for Families go to:

www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

Accommodation & childcare 0800 774 004

Monday to Friday 7 am – 6 pm, Saturday 8 am – 1 pm

Working for Families Tax Credits 0800 227 773

Monday to Friday 8 am – 8 pm, Saturday 9 am – 1 pm

Check or update your Working for Families Tax Credits details—through your secure online service account at www.ird.govt.nz

If you are deaf or find it hard to communicate by phone, you can:

- send a message through Inland Revenue's Deaf link free-fax 0800 447 755
- email MSD_Deaf_Services@msd.govt.nz
- call through New Zealand Relay on TTY 0800 4 711 711.

When calling any of the Working for Families phone numbers, you can ask for a Language Line interpreter. Language Line is a free phone-based interpreter service for customers whose first or preferred language is not English. There are 39 languages available—see www.language.govt.nz for the full list.



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake



Work and Income
Te Hiranga Tangata

A service of the Ministry of Social Development