

How can I get extra money?

There are 2 ways to get extra money.

1. Carer's Allowance (CA)
2. Carer Premium with means tested benefits

Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance (CA) is a weekly benefit for carers.

To qualify you must:

- be aged 16 or over;
- spend 35 hours a week caring;
Being present for the purpose of company and supervision, as well as actual assistance, is likely to count as time caring.
- care for a disabled person getting:
 - Attendance Allowance (AA) **or**
 - Disability Living Allowance (DLA) middle or high rate care **or** Constant Attendance Allowance (of at least £60.20 a week);
- not earn more than £100 a week (in your hand);
- not be a full time student;
- no one else must have claimed CA for looking after the same person.

2011/12 rates for Carer's Allowance

For you per week £55.55

This amount is taxable.

The amount of CA you get is affected by the following benefits:

- Contribution-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Retirement Pension
- War Widows Pension
- Maternity Allowance
- Widow's/Bereavement Benefits
- Incapacity Benefit/cont. based Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)
- Severe Disablement Allowance.

If the amount of these benefits is

- less than £55.55, CA is paid to top it up to £55.55.
For example, if your retirement pension is £40 a week you will get a CA top up of £15.55.
- If you get more than £55.55, you will not be paid CA, but will have an "underlying entitlement" for the Carer Premium.
You must make a claim for CA to establish underlying entitlement.

Carer Premium

Means tested benefits are assessed by comparing your weekly income against your **applicable amount** (this is the amount of money the Government says you need to live on each week). If your income is less than this, your means tested benefit will be topped up to the level of your applicable amount.

A carer premium (£31.00 a week) is added to your applicable amount if you receive CA **or** you have an underlying entitlement to CA.

This means you will either be entitled to more of your means tested benefit or you may now be able to claim for the first time. e.g. A retired couple would normally have an applicable amount of £209.70 a week. If one of them gets CA or has an underlying entitlement, their applicable amount will increase to £240.70 (AA & DLA are ignored when considering income). The carer premium is used in the calculation of income-related ESA, Income Support, income based Jobseekers Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

Advantages of claiming CA include:

- you are credited with a class 1 National Insurance stamps for each week on CA. These count towards Retirement Pension /Cont. based Jobseekers Allowance and Income Related ESA
- a £10 Christmas bonus.

If you qualify for means tested benefits, you can get extra health benefits such as:

- dental treatment
- vouchers for glasses
- you may also be entitled to maximum Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

How to claim CA

Claim forms can be obtained by phoning the Department for Work & Pensions' Disability & Carer's Benefit Helpline on 0800 88 22 00

Warning!

Claiming CA can affect the disabled person's means-tested benefits, in certain circumstances, so advice should be sought before a claim is made.

A detailed pack on Benefits for Carers is available from Disability Information Service (see over).

Where to get advice

Disability Information Service
Dundas Resource Centre,
Oxgang Road, Grangemouth
Tel & Mincom: 01324 504304
Fax: 01324 504312
email: dis@falkirk.gov.uk

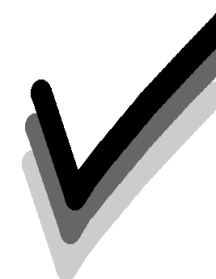
Other useful numbers

CA Unit, Palatine House,
Lancaster Road, Preston
Tel: 0845 608 4321

Welfare Benefits Helpline:
01324 501404

Carers Centre
5 Newmarket Street, Falkirk
Tel: 01324 611510
Fax: 01324 622022

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in community languages, braille, large print, or audio-tape, please contact the Disability Information Service.



disability information service

Financial Help for Carers

*This leaflet explains how
you may get extra money*



Falkirk Council
Social Work Services

community advice services