

Below are the [OSCAR Subsidy](#) income thresholds and maximum rates at 1 April 2026.

Number of children	Gross weekly income	OSCAR Subsidy (per hour, per child)	OSCAR Subsidy (per week, per child)	
			Term time (for 20 hours)	Holidays (for 50 hours)
1	Less than \$1,131.00	\$6.72	\$134.40	\$336.00
	\$1,131.00 to \$2,059.99	\$5.36	\$107.20	\$268.00
	\$2,060.00 to \$2,231.99	\$3.75	\$75.00	\$187.50
	\$2,232.00 to \$2,403.99	\$2.09	\$41.80	\$104.50
	\$2,404.00 or more	nil	nil	nil
2	Less than \$1,301.00	\$6.72	\$134.40	\$336.00
	\$1,301.00 to \$2,369.99	\$5.36	\$107.20	\$268.00
	\$2,370.00 to \$2,556.99	\$3.75	\$75.00	\$187.50
	\$2,557.00 to \$2,747.99	\$2.09	\$41.80	\$104.50
	\$2,748.00 or more	nil	nil	nil
3 or more	Less than \$1,457.00	\$6.72	\$134.40	\$336.00
	\$1,457.00 to \$2,643.99	\$5.36	\$107.20	\$268.00
	\$2,644.00 to \$2,867.99	\$3.75	\$75.00	\$187.50
	\$2,868.00 to \$3,090.99	\$2.09	\$41.80	\$104.50
	\$3,091.00 or more	nil	nil	nil

Who can receive the OSCAR Subsidy:

- you're the principal caregiver of a dependent child
- you're a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- your family is on a low or middle income.

You also need to be in one of these situations:

- working, studying or on an approved training course
- involved in an activity that Work and Income has asked you to do
- a shift worker who works nights
- seriously ill or disabled
- caring for a child in hospital or for a child you get the Child Disability Allowance for.

You can't get the OSCAR Subsidy if the child's other parent or caregiver can take care of the child.

It also depends on how much you and your partner earn.

To receive your OSCAR subsidy from the day your child starts the programme, you need to submit your application to us before your child's first day. This is especially important at school holidays.

The child or young person must:

- normally live in New Zealand
- be at school
- be under 14 (or under 18 if you get a Child Disability Allowance for them)
- be attending an approved OSCAR programme for at least 3 hours a week, which includes:
 - before school care
 - after school, holiday programmes and camps.