

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL & OSCAR SUBSIDIES

OSCAR stands for **Out of School Care and Recreation**. The OSCAR Subsidy helps families with the cost of before school care, after school care and school holiday within any of our KAS programmes.

What help can I get?

- **Up to 20 hours per week** during school term time (before & after school care)
 - **Up to 50 hours per week** during school holidays
 - The subsidy is **paid directly to KAS as an OSCAR provider**, reducing the fees you pay
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Who may be eligible?

You may be able to get the OSCAR Subsidy if:

- You are the principal caregiver of a dependent child
- You are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- Your family income is low to middle

You must also be **one** of the following:

- Working, studying, or on an approved training course
- Completing an activity required by Work and Income
- A shift worker (including night shifts)
- Seriously ill or disabled
- Caring for a child who is in hospital, or a child who receives the Child Disability Allowance

You may not be eligible if another parent or caregiver is available to look after your child.

Eligibility also depends on your household income and number of children.

Which children can be covered?

Your child or young person must:

- Normally live in New Zealand
- Be attending school
- Be under 14 years, or under 18 years if they receive the Child Disability Allowance

- Attend an OSCAR approved KAS programme for at least 3 hours per week, including:
 - Before school care
 - After school care
 - Holiday programmes
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How much can I receive?

The amount you receive depends on:

- Your gross weekly family income
- The number of dependent children in your family
- How many hours your child attends KAS

MAXIMUM OSCAR Subsidy Rates (from 1 April 2025)

Per child

- **Up to \$6.52 per hour**
- **Up to \$130.40 per week** during term time (20 hours)
- **Up to \$326.00 per week** during school holidays (50 hours)

Subsidy rates reduce as income increases and stop once income exceeds the threshold for your family size.

If your work hours vary (for example, casual or on-call work), Work and Income will discuss flexible options with you when you apply.

When does the subsidy start?

- Assistance usually starts from the date your care starts, or the date you apply (if you apply after care has started)
 - To receive the subsidy from your child's first day, you must apply before they start
 - This is especially important for school holiday programmes
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Why choose an OSCAR-approved KAS programme?

KAS programmes:

- Meet OSCAR Standards for safety, supervision and quality
- Are regularly monitored
- Allow families to access the OSCAR Subsidy

Families using unapproved programmes **cannot receive** the OSCAR Subsidy.

How to apply

Apply for OSCAR Subsidy only

- You (and your partner, if applicable) complete the **Childcare Assistance Application Form**
- KAS completes the Supervisor's section of the form
- Email the completed form and documents to:
Centralised_childcare_reviews@msd.govt.nz
- In most cases KAS can submit this on your behalf

Apply for OSCAR and other support

- Apply online through **MyMSD**
- Work and Income will check whether you qualify for other assistance
- You will still need KAS to complete part of the application

Tip: Apply **3–4 weeks before** you need the subsidy to start.

Reviews and changes

Your subsidy may be reviewed or stopped if:

- Your job or study ends
 - You stop work due to illness or injury (usually reviewed after 12 weeks)
 - Your child reaches the age limit
 - Your child leaves their KAS programme
 - Your child leaves your care
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Important: tell Work and Income if things change

You must let Work and Income know straight away if:

- Your income changes
 - Your child changes or stops attending KAS
 - Your child's attendance hours change
 - Your work or study hours change
 - The reason you receive the subsidy changes
 - Your child starts or stops receiving **20 Hours ECE**
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Need help?

Contact the KAS Admin office on 09 236 4078 for help on guiding you through the application process.

OSCAR SUBSIDY MAXIMUM RATES @ 1 APRIL 2025

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 \$ 1,099.00	\$ 6.52	\$ 130.40	\$ 326.00
	\$ 1,099.00 to \$ 2,001.99	\$ 5.20	\$ 104.00	\$ 260.00
	\$ 2,002.00 to \$ 2,168.99	\$ 3.64	\$ 72.80	\$ 182.00
	\$ 2,169.00 to \$ 2,335.99	\$ 2.03	\$ 40.60	\$ 101.50
	\$ 2,336.00 or more	nil	nil	nil
2	Less than \$ 1,264.00	\$ 6.52	\$ 130.40	\$ 326.00
	\$ 1,264.00 to \$ 2,302.99	\$ 5.20	\$ 104.00	\$ 260.00
	\$ 2,303.00 to \$ 2,484.99	\$ 3.64	\$ 72.80	\$ 182.00
	\$ 2,485.00 to \$ 2,669.99	\$ 2.03	\$ 40.60	\$ 101.50
	\$ 2,670.00 or more	nil	nil	nil
3 or more	Less than \$ 1,416.00	\$ 6.52	\$ 130.40	\$ 326.00
	\$ 1,416.00 to \$ 2,568.99	\$ 5.20	\$ 104.00	\$ 260.00
	\$ 2,569.00 to \$ 2,786.99	\$ 3.64	\$ 72.80	\$ 182.00
	\$ 2,787.00 to \$ 3,003.99	\$ 2.03	\$ 40.60	\$ 101.50
	\$ 3,004.00 or more	nil	nil	nil

Please note rates are accurate @ time of printing but may be subject to change from April 2026 – for full details please check www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/oscar-subsidy.html