

## **Early Years education and childcare**

Families entering the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Homes for Ukraine (sponsorship) Scheme have recourse to public funds. This means that families arriving in England will be able to access the government's existing entitlements and support, if they meet the existing eligibility criteria.

### **Disadvantaged 2-year-olds may be eligible to access 15 free hours of childcare**

The 15-hour free early education entitlement for two-year-olds is accessible to families on low incomes in receipt of certain income support benefits such as Universal Credit (UC). The eligibility criteria can be found here: [2-year-old eligibility criteria](#).

### **All 3- and 4-year-olds can access 15 free hours of childcare**

All parents of 3- and 4-year-olds can access 15 free hours of childcare per week, regardless of their family circumstances, income level or whether they are working.

### **3- and 4-year-olds from eligible working families can access an additional 15 free hours of childcare (30 hours in total)**

Eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds can access an additional 15 hours of childcare, known as the '30 Hours' entitlement. The eligibility criteria can be found here: [30 Hours eligibility criteria](#). Like parents from the UK, parents from Ukraine will need to have a UK National Insurance Number (NINo).

### **Tax-Free Childcare**

Tax-Free Childcare, which is available for working parents of children aged 0-11 (or up to 16 for some disabled children), has the same eligibility criteria as the '30 Hours' free childcare entitlement. This scheme can save parents up to £2,000 per year (or up to £4,000 for children with disabilities) and can be used alongside 30 Hours free childcare. The eligibility criteria for Tax-Free Childcare can be found here: [Tax-Free Childcare eligibility criteria](#).

### **Universal Credit Childcare**

Some parents may be eligible for help with up to 85% of their childcare costs through Universal Credit. This is for working parents of children aged 0-16, and is subject to a monthly limit of £646 for one child or £1108 for two or more children, payable in arrears.

Further information can be found here: [Universal Credit: What you'll get - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

The HAF programme provides healthy meals, enriching activities and free holiday childcare places to children from low-income families, benefiting their health, wellbeing and learning. This is targeted primarily towards children who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). Local authorities also have discretion to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of FSM but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF provision.

## Funding for local authorities

### Homes for Ukraine education and childcare grant

The Homes for Ukraine education and childcare grant funding is being allocated to local authorities to support the provision of education and support for all children aged 2-18 arriving under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. For each 2-, 3- and 4-year-old child the annual tariff is £3,000. The funding must only be used for the provision of education and childcare for children aged 2 to 18 who have entered via the Homes for Ukraine visa route, for example:

- to provide a place for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds accessing the 2-year-old, universal or 30 hours entitlements
- the provision of a suitable place for all other children up to the age of 18 (including time for staff resource and travel)
- funding placement of larger clusters of children into schools and early years settings, including the costs of additional and specialist teaching, non-teaching and administrative staff
- providing suitable travel arrangements, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school or suitable education setting
- the provision of specialist and bespoke services, such as support for children with additional needs, and resources (this may include education materials for schools)
- free school meals and school uniform (including school bags, provisions for example, water bottles, etc.)
- to provide access to extra-curricular activities for example, sports
- on community services whose provision benefits the children
- any other reasonable costs associated with the provision of education and childcare for the children.

The local authority can pool any amount of funding to fund activities that will benefit a group or all of the authority's children received via the Homes for Ukraine visa route.

The first payment was made by the ESFA on 31 August 2022. This was a payment in arrears to cover one-quarter of the annual tariff for the arrivals in the authority in the time period 1 March 2022 to 31 May 2022.

The remaining payment of three-quarters of the annual tariff (to cover the subsequent 9 months) will be made alongside the payment for arrivals in quarter 2.

All future payments after the first quarter will provide the total amount of pro-rata funding per child for the 2022 to 2023 financial year. Payment amounts are based on the age of the child on the date he or she arrives in the authority.

Allocations in August 2022 have been published for all local authorities that have children via the Homes for Ukraine visa route, along with the grant conditions, at the following link: [Homes for Ukraine education and childcare grant conditions of funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-education-and-childcare-grant-conditions-of-funding)

### Ukraine Tariff Grant

In addition, the [Homes for Ukraine tariff grant](#) provides £10,500 per person to councils and can be used to provide wrap-around support to individuals and families as they rebuild their lives and integrate into communities.

This tariff is not ringfenced; councils have discretion and may therefore use it to provide funding for early years childcare for 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children.