

FAQ

Subsidy Scheme Opportunities for all children 2018

For whom is the subsidy scheme intended? Is there an age or income limit?

The subsidy scheme is intended for children from 0 through 17 years old who are missing out on specific in-kind resources due to lack of money, such as swimming lessons, sports equipment, a healthy breakfast, holiday activities, music lessons or a subscription to the library. All children in the Netherlands should be able to participate, including children who grow up in a low-income family. Swimming lessons, healthy food, making music – it is part of the basis of every child.

The guideline is that parents may not earn more than 150% of the statutory minimum wage in order to qualify. However, this is not a strict limit. A child that grows up in a household with a higher income may still not be able to participate and therefore qualify for support, for instance due to debt problems.

Who can apply?

Not-for-profit organizations in the Caribbean Netherlands can submit an application. These organizations must be a legal entity that is registered in the Trade Register (Chamber of Commerce). The applicant can only apply for a subsidy for goods or services that are an addition to its usual activities or that are purchased. Implementation by the applicant itself must be funded by the applicant.

Where, when and how can you apply?

Subsidy applications for 2019 can be submitted from April 29th, 2019 at 9:00 am to May 13th, 2019 at 5:00 pm local time. Applications will be processed in order of receipt. Applications that are submitted outside of this time frame cannot be processed. Please note: this also means that you cannot submit an application before April 29th, 2019 at 9:00 am! You can submit your application via the e-mail address kansenvoorallekinderenCN@minszw.nl. You can only do this by using the appropriate application form.

Where can I download the application form?

You can download the application form at <https://www.uitvoeringvanbeleidszw.nl>. You can also send an e-mail to kansenvoorallekinderenCN@minszw.nl to request the form.

What should at least be included in the activity plan?

You must submit your application using the appropriate application form. It tells you exactly what information you should include in your application. In addition to standard information about the applying organization, you should at least provide an explanation with regard to:

- the in-kind resources (such as a school breakfast, musical instrument or sports equipment);
- how these resources will be provided;
- substantiation of the target group (children aged 0 through 17 who are growing up in poverty);
- how the in-kind resources contribute to improving the chances for the children;
- how the resources are an addition to what the applicant is already doing and what the children are already receiving;
- in what way cooperation takes place with the Public Entity and other important parties;
- why subsidization is necessary;
- how it is ensured that no children from the target group on the island are excluded;
- how many children will be reached with how many resources and how it is ensured that the resources will actually reach the children;
- financial budget of the activities, where you will have to fill in the number and price per product or service for each activity. An (Excel) form is also available for the budget.

What is eligible for subsidization and what is not?

Costs are eligible for subsidy if they concern matters that end up in kind with children who are growing up in poverty. In kind means, for instance, materials (such as a bicycle, tablet, sportswear, a healthy school breakfast or a musical instrument) or a membership or service (such as a sports club membership, music lesson or tutoring).

Other costs made by organizations in order to get the in-kind resources to the children cannot be funded from this subsidy scheme. These costs must be paid by the applicants from their own budget or be funded from other external sources. Own wage costs cannot be funded, for instance. Only the external costs that are additional costs for the applicant in order to make the final product (i.e. the items, lessons or subscriptions) are eligible for subsidy.

I am an applicant, can I include my own costs or those of my staff in the budget?

No, that is not the intention. Subsidy can only be granted for products and services that are supplementary to your normal and usual activities, i.e. for which you use additional capacity or that have been purchased externally. (See also 'Who can apply?')

Can I get assistance to fill in the application form?

Yes, the staff at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment can support you with your application if need be. In the first quarter of 2019, they will be present on the islands to provide support where necessary. An information session will be held as well. If you have any questions, you can also send an e-mail to kansenvoorallekinderenCN@minszw.nl.

Which time period is connected to the funds?

The money is intended for projects of up to one year. The project must start within three months after the subsidy has been granted. The project cannot start before the application has been submitted (within the applicable time frame).

What happens if the money is not spent (completely)?

If you do not spend (all of) the money, you must pay back the unused part to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. Each year the money is distributed among the islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. If one of the islands has money left over, it can be used for one of the other islands.

When will I receive the money?

The application period for 2019 runs from April 29th, 2019 through May 13th, 2019. A decision on your application will be taken within three months of receipt. Upon a positive decision, you will receive payment within 6 weeks. Applications are assessed in order of receipt. If many applications are submitted, it is possible that applications will be rejected due to insufficient funds. After approval, applicants will receive a first advance. The remainder will be paid after the project has finished, once they have submitted the final report.

How much money is available in total? What is the maximum amount per year that I can apply for?

During the period 2017-2019, € 1,000,000 will be available each year. Of this amount, € 550,000 is earmarked annually for Bonaire, € 250,000 for St. Eustatius and € 200,000 for Saba. This division was determined as follows: € 500,000 was distributed equally across the islands, the rest in proportion to the number of children. You can submit an application for a minimum of € 10,000 and a maximum of € 50,000. As an applicant, you can submit multiple applications; the total amount of all of these applications combined may not exceed € 100,000.

From 2020 onwards the Subsidy Scheme Opportunities for all children will become part of BES (t) 4 kids. BES(t) 4 kids is aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of childcare in Bonaire, Statia and Saba. This decision means that the application period that opens on 29 April 2019 will be the last time the Subsidy Scheme will be opened. For 2019, the same (subsidy) conditions and the same application process

apply as in the first two application periods.

By offering after-school activities and meals through the BES (t) 4 kids program, benefits that are currently financed via Opportunities for all children can be financed and organized in a more structural and integral manner. The financial resources continue to be available for children who grow up in Bonaire, Statia and Saba. Making the Subsidy Scheme part of BES (t) 4 kids will be further discussed with the public entities and the ministries of SZW, OCW and VWS. Organizations that receive or have received a subsidy in the context of the subsidy scheme for all children will also be involved in this process.

Which currency should I use in my application?

The scheme is based on euros. You may submit your application in US dollars. If you include amounts in US dollars in your budget, these amounts will be converted into euros based on a historical annual average. Therefore, it will be clear in advance what the exchange rate is and all applications will be converted into euros using the same exchange rate. The relevant historical annual average that is used as conversion rate is stated in the decision on your application.

In what way should justification take place?

After completion of the project, you must submit a final report by filling in a form that has been drawn up by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. This form can be downloaded at <https://www.uitvoeringvanbeleidszw.nl>.

Is an audit required?

No, an audit is not necessary.

What should I keep in mind with regard to the justification?

It is important to think beforehand about how you will justify the project activities. How you will determine the target group, for instance, and how you will demonstrate that the activities, goods or services have benefitted the children. After completion of the project, you must submit a final report using a form that has been drawn up by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. Tools to support the justification and determination of activities are, for example, reports, photos, newspaper articles, external communication and social media or other results or products of the project. This form can be downloaded at <https://www.uitvoeringvanbeleidszw.nl>.

What do I need to think about with regard to the project administration?

For the justification, we advise you to keep a record of the number of participants and the finances. This could be in the form of a project administration, for instance, that is designed in such a way that it provides insight into the participants and the realized costs per (sub) activity, including related documents such as quotations and invoices.

In your project administration you should have an overview with the participating children (name and age) from the target group. You must also be able to substantiate, if necessary with the underlying documentation, how you have determined that the children belong to the target group.

All invoices and payment receipts related to the project must be included in the financial administration. Some projects will be audited in more detail. If your project is in the list of the audit sample all underlying document like the invoices, receipts, proof of payment and bank statement are checked on accuracy of

the amount, the delivered performance, the payment date and the project period. This means that digital copies must be received from these invoices and payment receipts.

What should I do if things change during the implementation of my project?

It is possible that due to (unforeseen) circumstances the implementation of your project will not go as you had initially planned. If this is the case, it is important that you inform the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment about this. In consultation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment it can be determined whether it is necessary to change the duration of the project, for instance.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have any questions, you can send an e-mail to kansenvoorallekinderenCN@minszw.nl. You can also find relevant information at <https://www.uitvoeringvanbeleidszw.nl>.

How long will this subsidy scheme remain in force?

From 2020 onwards the Subsidy Scheme Opportunities for all children will become part of BES (t) 4 kids. BES(t) 4 kids is aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of childcare in Bonaire, Statia and Saba. This decision means that the application period that opens on 29 April 2019 will be the last time the Subsidy Scheme will be opened. For 2019, the same (subsidy) conditions and the same application process apply as in the first two application periods.

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Does this scheme replace the funds that were already made available by both the Central Government and the Public Entities for poverty reduction?

No, these are additional funds. This money comes on top of the funds that are already being spent on alleviating poverty, both by the Public Entity and by the Central Government, and does not replace them. This means that the Executive Councils will continue to spend the funds that are currently being spent on combating poverty with the same objective. Whether that is poverty reduction among children or, for example, the elderly. It is expressly not the intention that with the arrival of these additional funds the resources that are currently being used for anti-poverty purposes will be devoted to something else.

I received a subsidy in 2017 or 2018, is it possible to submit an application in 2019 for the same or a similar project? The applicant can only apply for a subsidy for goods or services that are an addition to what the applicant is already doing and what the children are already receiving. This condition also applies to applicants who received a subsidy in 2018 through Opportunities for all children and who are planning to submit an application again in 2019. When applying for subsidy for the same or a similar project in 2018, the applicant must substantiate the following: (1) why a subsidy is necessary and what attempts the applicant has made to obtain alternative funding, (2) how the activities for the applicant are complementary to what the applicant already does in the project for which the applicant received a subsidy in 2018 and (3) how the result is additional to what the children already receive with the project for which the applicant received a subsidy in 2018.