



Housing Benefit

What it is?

Housing Benefit is a national welfare benefits for people who have a low income.

Housing Benefit is paid to people on a low income to pay their rent

Who can claim for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit?

To be able to claim Housing Benefit, a person must be:

- On a low income
- The person who has to pay rent
- Living in the property

People who are working full time or part time, are self employed or retired, can all claim Housing Benefit as well as people who are unemployed or cannot work because of illness or because they are caring for someone.

Some people cannot claim Housing Benefit. These include:

- People (apart from some pensioners) who have more than £16,000 in savings or investments
- People who pay rent to a close relative who lives in the same property
- Most students
- People who rent a property which they (or their partner) previously owned
- People who have no recourse to public funds under Immigration rules

How much can I claim?

The amount of Housing Benefit paid depends on a number of things:

- Your income (and your partner's if you have one)
- Your savings
- The number of children who live with you
- Other people who live with you
- Whether you or your family have any special circumstances because of illness or disability

People who get Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based) or Pension Guarantee Credits usually get full Housing Benefit paid. This may, however, be reduced where other adults (called non-dependants) live with you.

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How do I apply?

You can fill in the form either on paper or by using a computer. Once you have finished the form, you need to sign it and take it back to your local neighbourhood office providing the following evidence:

- Proof of your (and your partner's, if you have one) identity and National Insurance number
- Proof that you live in your property
- Proof of other people who live with you
- Proof of your income and any savings or investments you have
- Proof of your tenancy and the rent you pay

What happens next?

Your local council will write to you with their decision and if granted the amount of benefit granted to pay your rent.

Contact us at Lisieux Trust's Disability Information & Resource Centre for further assistance on telephone: 0121 382 6660, text messaging: 07933 473 483