

## Housing Benefit - What is it?

It is a benefit that can help you pay for your rent if you are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits.

**Please be aware that this benefit is going to be replaced by Universal Credit soon.**

## Am I eligible to claim Housing Benefit?

You may be able to claim Housing Benefit if:

- you pay rent
- and you are on a low income or claiming benefits
- you have savings less than £16,000

As the Housing Benefit is being replaced with Universal Credit most people will not be able to

make a NEW claim for Housing Benefit, instead you may have to claim Universal Credit. If you are already claiming Universal Credit you cannot claim Housing Benefit.

To make a new claim for Housing Benefit you must either:

- be getting a benefit with the severe disability premium (SDP), or you are entitled to it. For example you may be entitled to the SDP with your Personal Independence Payment allowance. If you are not sure you qualify, you can contact the office in charge of your benefits to find out
- or have reached state pension age
- or be in supported, sheltered or temporary housing

## How do I apply for Housing Benefit?

To check if you are able to claim for Housing Benefit contact your council. You will be able to find your local council office on the following page on GOV.UK

[www.gov.uk/apply-housing-benefit-from-council](http://www.gov.uk/apply-housing-benefit-from-council)

Or if you are claiming other benefits like:

- Income Support
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- income-based Job seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Pension Credit

Ask at your Jobcentre or Pension Service if you are able to claim for Housing Benefit, they should be able to help you with your application.

## How much money could I get?

Housing Benefit is a means tested benefit. This means the amount you can get depends on:

- your savings
- who you live with
- how much rent you pay
- how many rooms you have in your home
- if you get disability or carer's benefits

If you qualify you will be notified and your rent will be adjusted.

You will get a rent breakdown in which you will be told how much housing benefit you get and how much you will need to pay.

## Council tax discount

You may qualify for a discount on your council tax if you either get the daily living or mobility component of PIP (Personal Independence Payment)

Your council should be able to tell you how much you will get off your council tax bill.

## How to apply for a council tax discount?

To apply contact your local council and tell them you are getting PIP (Personal Independence Payment). They may ask you to send a copy of your PIP award letter.

## I want to find out more what do I do next?

You can find out more information from the following websites:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/help-if-on-a-low-income/housing-benefit.gov.uk/housing-benefit](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/help-if-on-a-low-income/housing-benefit.gov.uk/housing-benefit)

## How do I get communication support?

If you need communication support with applying for the above, please contact us for help.

**iDEAF** support many deaf and hard of hearing people with communication, information and advice. Our contact details are below.

***The information in this FACTsheet is only a guide and the Government can change this at any time.***

***iDeaf - London Deaf Information Service bringing a change to the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people.***

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