

Housing and Council Tax Benefits

How is my Benefit calculated?

Anyone who has to pay Rent or Council Tax can claim.

- You can claim Housing Benefit even if you are working
- You don't need to have made any National Insurance contributions
- You can still claim Housing Benefit even if you are not getting any other benefits

The amount of Housing and Council Tax Benefit you will receive depends on:

- Your income – the money you and your partner (if you have one) have coming into your household;
- We also need to know about savings or investments you have;
- Your age and the age of any other family members who live with you;
- Whether you have anyone else living in your home, for example dependent children, a lodger or a member of your family who is 18 or over;
- The level of rent you are charged. If you are a Council Tenant we will have these details. If you are a private tenant you must provide proof of your rent charge.

Once we have a completed application form we can work out how much benefit you are due. To help us do this the Government has set out how much it thinks people need to live on. These figures are called allowances and we cannot change them. You may also get additional premiums if you fall into one of the special needs categories. We compare the amount of money you have with these amounts to work out how much benefit you may receive.

You may get more Housing and Council Tax Benefit if you;

- are disabled;
- have children;
- are elderly; or
- care for people who get certain kinds of benefits.