

Housing Benefit fact sheet

Housing Benefit (HB) is a payment made to tenants on a low income to help them pay their rent.

Working age residents

Can claim if they:

- have less than £16,000 in savings
- receive Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- are on a low income, have low earnings, or work part time
- pay rent to a private landlord or a housing association

There are special rules for:

- students
- people who have to go through immigration control
- people in hospital
- people in prison
- young people aged 16 or 17
- people who have to maintain two homes

Proof needed (for claimant and partner)

- National Insurance numbers
- proof of benefits received
- two original proofs of identity:
Passport, full driving licence, birth certificate, marriage certificate, UK residence permit, utility bill (from the last four months), bank statements and payslips

- if working and:
*paid weekly – last five payslips
paid fortnightly – last three payslips
paid four weekly – last two payslips
paid monthly – last two payslips*
- savings and investments:
All bank, building society, post office accounts, premium bonds, savings certificates, stocks, shares, ISAs (the evidence you send must show two consecutive months' transactions)

HB entitlement

The amount given depends on the:

- level of rent
- number, ages and circumstances of people in the family or others in the home
- members of the household that are employed
- income
- savings or investments, if over £6,000

When will my benefit start?

Benefit will usually start from the Monday after the claim form is received and approved.

Pension age residents

Can claim if they:

- have less than £16,000 in savings
- receive Pension Credit
there are two types:
 - *Guaranteed: they can have savings of any level if they receive this.*
 - *Saving Credit: is when the limit of £16,000 in savings still applies.*
- are on a low income
- pay rent to a private landlord or a housing association

There are special rules for:

- people who have to go through immigration control
- people in hospital
- people in prison
- people in residential care and nursing homes
- people who have to maintain two homes

Residents should apply as soon as possible as there are strict rules for paying backdated benefit.

Proof needed (for claimant and partner)

- National Insurance numbers
- proof of benefits received
- two original proofs of identity:
Passport, full driving licence, birth certificate, marriage certificate, UK residence permit, utility bill (from the last four months), bank statements and payslips
- if working and:
paid weekly – last five payslips
paid fortnightly – last three payslips
paid four weekly – last two payslips
paid monthly – last two payslips

HB entitlement

The amount given depends on the:

- level of rent
- number, ages and circumstances of people in the family or others in the home
- members of the household that are employed
- income
- savings or investments, if over £10,000

When will HB start?

HB will usually start from the Monday after the claim form is received and approved.

Payment

If a tenant is entitled to the new Local Housing Allowance they will, in most cases, not be able to ask us to pay the landlord.

Payments to housing associations tenants can continue to be made to the landlord.

Change in circumstances

If a claimant's circumstances change, they must tell us straight away as it may affect the benefit they receive. There are rules which mean a claimant must tell us of any changes to their advantage in their circumstances within one month of the change or we might not be able to pay extra benefit.

For more information visit,
www.rushmoor.gov.uk/benefits,
email benefits@rushmoor.gov.uk
or call our benefits team on **01252 398 914**