

HOUSING BENEFIT



You could get **Housing Benefit (HB)** to help you pay your rent if you're on a low income. HB can pay for part or all of your rent. How much you get depends on your income and circumstances and whether you rent privately or from the council. You can apply for HB whether you're unemployed or working, but if you live with a partner, only one of you can get HB.

If you're single and under 35, you can only get HB for bed-sit accommodation or a single room in shared accommodation

Council and social housing rent: How much you get depends on:

- Your '**eligible**' rent e.g. the reasonable rent for a suitable property in your area
- If you have a spare room
- Your household income - including benefits, pensions and savings (over £6,000 and under £16000.
- your circumstances, e.g. age of people in the house, if someone has a disability

Spare bedrooms

Your HB could be reduced if you live in council or social housing and have a spare bedroom. The reduction is:

- 14% of the 'eligible rent' for 1 spare bedroom
- 25% of the 'eligible rent' for 2 or more spare bedrooms

Two children under the age of 16 of the same sex are expected to share a room; those under 10 are expected to share regardless of sex.

A single adult over 16 is entitled to their own room, as are over- night carer or a child with a disability.

Private rent - Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is used to work out HB for tenants who rent privately. How much you get is usually based on, where you live, your household size, your income and circumstances.

How to claim -If you're claiming other benefits -Contact Jobcentre Plus and they will send details to your local council

If you're claiming **Universal Credit** – this will include your housing benefit if you have claimed and are eligible. You will have to pay your rent to your landlord yourself.