

HOUSING BENEFIT

Who can get Housing Benefit?

To qualify for Housing Benefit you must:

- Live in Birmingham
- Be liable for rent (including if you are a lodger in occupation), when making a claim, select 'Yes' when asked if you are a tenant, and then state on the form that you are a lodger in occupation
- Be actually residing in the property
- Rent your home from a Private Landlord, Local Authority or Registered Social Landlord
- Not have savings of more than £16,000, unless you have reached the qualifying age for state pension credit

You may also qualify if:

- You live in a mobile home or houseboat
- You are renting under a shared ownership scheme
- You are a boarder whose rent includes meals

If you are not a UK citizen and you have recently arrived in or returned to the UK, you will need to go to your nearest [Customer Service Centre](#) to see an advisor. Specialist advice is also available from the [Home Office](#) and the [Refugee Council](#).

Who can make a Housing Benefit claim?

If any of the following apply to you and your partner, then the person specified should make the claim:

- Your partner is a student, you are not, you should make the claim
- Your partner comes from an EU state, you are a UK citizen, you should make the claim
- Your partner does not have recourse to public funds, you should make the claim, but you should consult an immigration adviser before doing so, as this may affect your partner's immigration status

[Universal Credit](#) is being rolled out across Birmingham between 8 November 2017 and 14 February 2018. If you are unsure whether to claim Universal Credit or Housing Benefit then you can check below:

How much Housing Benefit you will receive

Housing Benefit is means tested and the amount you receive will depend on your personal circumstances. The amount you receive depends on who lives with you, your total income and any savings you may have, or the total amount your family receives in benefits. The amount can also be affected by the amount of bedrooms your family needs. *See [bedroom tax](#) page for further information*

People who live with you

Adults who live with you, other than your partner, are called non-dependants. The Government expects that a non-dependant will make a contribution to your rent and deducts this amount from any Housing Benefit you may receive, whether or not they actually do.

See [non dependant](#) page for further information

How many bedrooms does your family need?

In 2013, the Government introduced new rules that set out the number of bedrooms Housing Benefit will pay for if you rent your home. This is called “removal of the spare room subsidy”, but it is commonly known as “[bedroom tax](#)”.

See [bedroom tax](#) page for further information

Total amount of benefit received by your family

In 2013, the Government introduced a “cap” on the total amount of benefits that working age people can receive if they are not working. Only some people will be affected.

See [benefit cap](#) page for further details