

Welfare benefits

Income Benefits are available to help anyone. If in doubt, apply anyway. This leaflet gives a summary of the various benefits that you may be entitled to. For more information about benefits please contact your housing officer or income recovery officer.

For information on housing benefit please see our other leaflets.

Income support / job seekers allowance - an outline

Who is it for?

People who are not working and do not have enough money to live on.

Who is eligible?

Any person, or couple, aged 18 or over who works less than 16 hours per week or is unemployed and has less than £8,000 in savings. Special rules apply to 16 and 17 year olds. The amount depends on the number and ages of people in your family, your income and any savings you may have. Whether you are a pensioner, a carer or are disabled also has an affect.

How do I apply?

Ask for a form B1 at the Department for Work and Pensions (formerly Department for Social Security), your Unemployment Benefit Office or your local post office.



Working families tax credit - an outline

Who is it for?

Working families on low incomes

Who is eligible?

Any person, or couple, aged 16 or over who works more than 16 hours a week, has at least one child living with them or has less than £8,000 in savings. The amount depends on the number and ages of children in your family, your income and any savings.

How do I apply?

Ask for the appropriate form at the Department for Work & Pensions (formerly Department for Social Security) or your local post office.

Pension credits - an outline

Who is it for?

Pensioners on low incomes.

Who is eligible?

Any pensioner is eligible. There is no capital/savings limit and you may be entitled even if you receive one or more occupational pensions.

How do I apply?

Ask for the appropriate form at the Department for Work & Pensions (formerly Department for Social Security) or your local post office.

Alternatively you can call freephone on:
0800 99 1234

Please remember that if you are successful you will have to tell the pensions service if you go abroad for more than four weeks, or if your circumstances change.

Social fund - an outline

Who is it for? - People on benefit who need a one-off sum to cover an emergency or purchase of a large essential item. The sum may be loans or non-refundable grants.

What type of things are grants given for? – Funeral expenses, maternity expenses or community care expenses. The amount given depends on your income and any savings, a DSS assessment of your needs and funds available at that time.

What type of things are grants given for?

The grants are to cover a crisis that has cost you money, such as an illness or a fire, or to pay for essential household items such as a cooker, or a bed. The amount given depends on your income and any savings, a Department for Work and Pensions assessment of your needs and funds available at that time.

How do I apply?

Visit your local Department for Work and Pensions office (formerly Department for Social Security).

Further information

For further information about welfare payments that you may be entitled to, please contact the Income Recovery Team at ASRA on 020 7940 6600 or your local Department for Work and Pensions office.

Details given are correct as at September 2005.

