

What happens next

We will tell you in writing whether or not you qualify for benefit on two homes.

If you do qualify it will only be for a maximum of 4 weeks.

Benefit on two homes

In certain other circumstances Housing Benefit may be paid on two properties, these include;

- Leaving a property through fear of violence.
- Students and their partners unavoidably occupying two properties. or
- Large families that need to be housed in two properties.

Please contact us for further information.

Blackpool Council believes in Access for All

To ensure services provided by Blackpool Council are accessible information is available upon request in a variety of accessible formats including large print, Braille, on audio cassette or computer disk.

We can also provide help for British Sign Language users and provide information in languages other than English.

Please ask for details.

For more information or advice

Customer First Centre

Visit the Customer First Centre:

Town Hall PO Box 50
Corporation Street
Blackpool FY1 1NF

Customer First Centre opening times:

8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday
9am to 2pm Saturday

Call Centre

For Revenues and Benefits enquiries phone us on 01253 478847

For all other enquiries phone us on 01253 477477

Telephone lines are open:

8am to 6pm Monday to Friday
9am to 2pm Saturday

Fax

You can fax us on 01253 478808

Email

You can email us: benefits@blackpool.gov.uk

Website

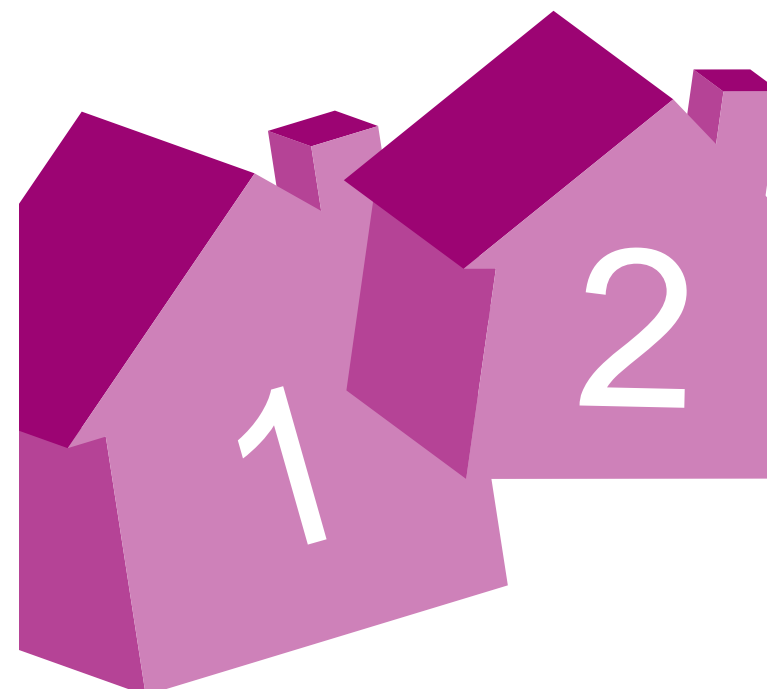
You can also get information from our website www.blackpool.gov.uk

This information is for guidance only. Please contact us to talk about your individual circumstances and we will be able to give you more information.

Housing & Council Tax Benefit

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Benefit on two homes



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Introduction

This guide is one of a number produced with the aim of helping customers understand Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

It is intended as a general guide. People have different circumstances so for more detailed individual advice please contact us.

Benefit on two homes

Normally, Housing Benefit is only payable for one home, however in certain circumstances benefit can be paid for two properties.

An overlap of benefit

When you are moving and you have to pay rent on your old and new home, you may be able to qualify for Housing Benefit for both of them if

- You have moved into the new property; and
- You could not reasonably have avoided having to pay rent on both properties.

Benefit can only be paid in this instance for a maximum of 4 weeks.

How can I claim an overlap of benefit?

You must tell us immediately if you think you may be entitled to an overlap of benefit.

We will send you an application form to fill in and you must explain why you had to move into your new address before your old tenancy ended.

Period of Notice

In certain situations we can pay benefit for a notice period, even if there is no liability where you are now living. This is in the following situations:

- People in hospital, who initially expected to return home but whose stay becomes permanent or they are discharged to a care home.
- People suddenly taken into hospital.
- Prisoners sentenced to a custodial term of more than 13 weeks.

A period of up to four weeks can be given, if the liability on the former home could not reasonably have been avoided, and the customer was otherwise entitled to Housing Benefit for that period.

Benefit before moving in

Housing Benefit can be paid for a maximum of 4 weeks prior to moving into the new home if;

- You had to make payments on your new home before moving in; and
- You make a claim for Housing Benefit before moving in; and you meet one of the following three criteria
 - The move was delayed while necessary adaptations were made to the new home to meet the disabled needs of you or a member of your family; or
 - The move was delayed pending the outcome of a social fund application relating to your new home and your family includes a child aged 5 years or less, or a pensioner or a disability premium applies; or
 - you had to make payments for your new home while you were a patient in residential care, hospital or a nursing home.

How can I claim benefit before moving in?

You must make a claim for Housing Benefit **before** you move into your new property.

Please use the section called other information on the benefit application form, to request benefit is paid before you move into the property. Please give as many details as possible.