

How we work out how much we can pay you

If you get Income support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, Guarantee Credit or Income Related Employment Support allowance, we will pay you full benefit. However, other circumstances, such as a non-dependent in your house, may reduce the benefit.

If you do not get any of the benefits above we will compare the amount the Government says you need to live on each week (your applicable amount) with your income. If your income is less than your applicable amount, you will get full benefit. If your income is more than your applicable amount, we have to take some of the difference off your benefit.

Example

The rent we use to work out your benefit is:	£40
Your Income each week is:	£140
Your applicable amount is:	£129.20
The difference between your income and your applicable amount is:	£10.80
The amount we take off because your income is more than your applicable amount is: (65% of £10.80)	£7.02
The amount we take off your non-dependant is:	£7.40
The total we take of is: (£7.02 + £7.40)	£14.42
Your weekly Housing Benefit is: (£40 less £14.42)	£25.58

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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Will you qualify?



Blackpool Council
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Will you qualify?

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.

The information we use to work out your benefit.

When we work out your benefit we take account of the following details.

- How much money you have coming in each week.
- How much you have in savings and investments.
- Who lives in your household and their circumstances.
- How much rent and Council Tax you have to pay.

The income we used to work out your benefit.

If you or your partner are working, we count your pay but we take off any income tax and national insurance. We also take off half of any money you pay into a pension scheme.

We count most other kinds of income, but we do not count certain benefits, for example, Disability Living Allowance, although you must tell us about all the income you receive.

We also have to work out how much you have in savings and investments, as follows.

If you and your partner are under 60, we do not count the first £6,000 of your savings and investments. However if your savings and investments are £16,000 or more you will not qualify.

If you, or your partner, are 60 or over, we do not count the first £6,000 of your savings and investments. You may still qualify if they exceed £16,000.

If you get Income support, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, Guarantee Credit or Income Related Employment Support allowance we do not count the amount of income you get.

Your applicable amount.

This is the amount the government says you need to live on each week.

Your applicable amount is made up of three parts.

- An amount for you and your partner, if you have one.
- An amount for any dependant children in your family.
- An amount called a premium to help with special needs, for example, if you have children, or if someone in your family is elderly or disabled.

These amounts are set by the Government and normally change every year.

Other adults who live with you.

Normally, we take a certain amount off your weekly benefit for each other adult who lives with you. This amount is called a non-dependant deduction. Our leaflet, Non-Dependant Deductions, gives you more 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.