

Housing Benefit for under 35s

November 2014
Factsheet

A guide to help single people understand Housing Benefit

About this factsheet:

This factsheet is for single people under 35, who rent or intend to rent from a private landlord.

It provides an overview of the Shared Accommodation Rate.

For general information about Housing Benefit and how to apply, see our 'Factsheet: Housing Benefit for single people'.

Contact us:

Housing Advice

Housing.advice@harrow.gov.uk

0208 424 1093

What is Housing Benefit?

You can apply for Housing Benefit to help pay your rent and some service charges. You cannot get help with heating, hot water, energy or food.

Who can claim?

You can apply for help if you rent your home and:

- you receive benefits
- you work and have a low income

You cannot claim if you have savings of £16,000 or more.

How much will I get?

If you're under 35 and rent your home from a private landlord, the maximum you can get is limited to the Shared Accommodation Rate.

Shared Accommodation Rate

The Shared Accommodation Rate will only cover the cost of a room in a shared house. You will get the Shared Accommodation Rate even if rent a house or flat.

This will not apply for the first 13 weeks of your claim if you could afford our rent when you moved and have not claimed housing benefit in past 12 months.

Are there any exceptions?

You will be exempt from the Shared Accommodation Rate if:

- you have a Severe Disability (Middle / Higher Care Disability Living Allowance)
- you've spent at least 3 months in a hostel with resettlement support (25 - 35 year olds)
- you've left prison and are subject to Multi Agency Public Protection (25 – 35 year olds)
- you're under 22 and spent time in care since your 16th birthday

Can I get help if I'm a student?

You may not be entitled to help if you are a full time student. Contact your local council for more information. To find your local council, visit:

www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council

