

The benefits of working. Going back to work doesn't mean giving up all your benefits.

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jobcentreplus

Department for
Work and Pensions

Are you unemployed and receiving Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support?

Are you worried about losing your Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit if you go back to work?

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit can be paid while you earn, working full time or part time. So you really can see the benefits of working. This leaflet explains how you may still get these benefits when you get a job.

Working benefits your income, your health, your family and your future.

What are Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit?

Housing Benefit can help pay all or part of your rent and Council Tax Benefit can help towards your council tax bills. These are both income-related benefits, and you could qualify if you're working or not.

Better off in work

Almost everyone can be better off in work. Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Working Tax Credit provide extra support to help you while you work.

Help you can get in work

You may be able to get an **Extended Payment of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit**. This payment provides help for up to four weeks when you start a new job and begin earning a wage.

And you may be able to continue to get Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit after this time, depending on your circumstances.

Parents may get extra help with childcare costs, and single parents may get In Work Credit. Any child maintenance and Child Benefit that you get won't affect your Housing and Council Tax Benefit. Your Jobcentre Plus Personal Adviser will be able to explain these benefits to you when you find work.

Find out for yourself

Try the online Benefits Adviser at www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser to get benefit advice, an estimate of the amount you may get and find out how changing your circumstances affects your benefits, for example if you start work or increase your working hours.

It's not just about the financial benefits

There are other benefits of working too, such as more self confidence, being a good example to your children, and finding new friends and support in your job.

It's as simple as 1-2-3

Make sure you get all the support available to help you find and stay in a job.

- 1** If you or your partner are getting Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support and you have found a job, contact your local Jobcentre Plus. Contact details are on the back page.
- 2** Jobcentre Plus will ask for your details, so they can close your or your partner's claim. They will then help you to claim in-work benefits such as Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and tax credits. You do not have to fill in any forms, but make sure you have details of your income, savings and any rent payments to hand.
- 3** Once you're in work, if your personal circumstances change, such as working overtime, you must let your local council and/or tax credits office know, as your in-work benefits could also change.

Jobcentre Plus can help you back to work

Jobcentre Plus can show you how you can be better off working, help you to manage your move into work, and sort out changes to your Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit or tax credits.

Suzie is a 23-year-old single parent with two children.

She had been unemployed and getting Income Support but recently decided she wanted to go back to work. She contacted Jobcentre Plus and found out that getting a job could really boost her income. Jobcentre Plus could also handle the changes to her benefits.

Suzie now works 37 hours a week as a receptionist, with a weekly salary of £214.60. She gets £27.20 in Housing Benefit, £51.10 in Working Tax Credit plus £129.40 of Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit.

This has made her £94 a week better off compared to when she was unemployed.*

*These figures are specific to an individual's circumstances and give an indication of the support available.

Don't give up

Going back to work is a time of change which may not always be easy. Make the most of the support available from Jobcentre Plus, to help you see the benefits of working.

To find out more

To see an estimate of the benefits you may get, if you're in or out of work, use our Benefits Adviser at www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser

To find out more about benefits and help when going back to work, go to www.direct.gov.uk/workingbenefits

To find out how to contact your local Jobcentre Plus, go to www.direct.gov.uk/employment. If you're getting Jobseeker's Allowance, or you're a lone parent on Income Support and looking for work, you will also find the telephone number on the Into Work leaflet you receive at your work-focused interview.

To find out more about who can and can't claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, go to www.direct.gov.uk/housingbenefit and www.direct.gov.uk/counciltaxbenefit

For support and advice to help you get back to work, visit www.direct.gov.uk/backtowork

Important information about this leaflet

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of November 2009. Some of the information may be oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law. The service described in 'It's as simple as 1-2-3' is available in most parts of Great Britain for customers receiving Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support (lone parents who have had a work-focused Interview). The service will be available in all areas in early 2010.