

How to get extra help with rent from the council



Rent is the money that you pay to your landlord to live in your home.



Your landlord is the person who owns the place where you live.



Rent sometimes costs a lot.

You can run out of money to pay for it.



But there are things that you can do to get more money for your rent.



Your council could give you a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP).

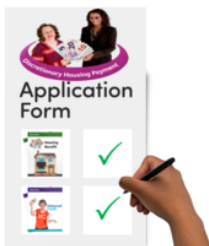
A Discretionary Housing Payment is extra money to help with your rent.

Discretionary means it is up to somebody to decide if you get something.



The council decides:

- if you should get any money
- how much money you should get
- how long you can get it for.



You can ask for a DHP if you get money from benefits to help with rent.

Benefits are money from the government to help pay for things like rent.



The benefits that help with rent are called [Universal Credit](#) or Housing Benefit.



How to tell the council you need a DHP

You can:

- visit your council's website and fill in a Discretionary Housing Payment form
- go to the council office and ask for a Discretionary Housing Payment form.



You can find your local council [on the government website](#).



You can ask your social worker , support worker or a member of your family to help you fill in the form.



You can also tell your council that you need help to fill in the form.

The council should have someone who can help you.



In the form you need to tell the council why you need help with rent.



Reasons why you need help with rent could be:

- you do not get enough money each month to pay all of your rent
- you live in a privately rented home that has an extra bedroom which your benefits do not pay for.



Other help you could get to pay your rent

The council may help you with things like money to help you pay your council tax bill.



Ask your social worker or support worker to help you:

- make sure you get all the help you can from the council
- check that you are getting enough benefit money to help with rent.



Your social worker, support worker or a trusted friend could see if there is other money you could get.

Sometimes there is money called grants which you can use to help with your rent.



Watch out for scams

Scams are when people lie to try and get your money.



Sometimes people will pretend to be from the council.



Do not give your personal information over the phone or internet.



Personal information means things like your:

- name
- home address
- email address
- bank details



Ask someone you trust if you think something is a scam.



Contact the Learning Disability Helpline if you need more help

- Telephone **0808 808 1111**

