

A QUICK GUIDE TO BENEFITS, CREDITS, GRANTS & LOANS FOR NEW TENANTS



"Delivering Excellent Housing Services"

BENEFITS, CREDITS, GRANTS & LOANS INFORMATION SHEET

There are many different types of benefits and credits you may be entitled to claim or grants and loans you may be eligible to apply for.

Housing & Council Tax Benefit

Housing/Council Tax Benefit is help for anyone on a low income who pays Rent/Council Tax. People can claim whether they are in full time work or get benefits such as State Retirement Pension, Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support or Pension Credit.

Almost anyone who pays rent can make a claim for Housing/Council Tax Benefit. The amount of benefit a person can get will depend on the size of their household, how much rent they pay and how much income and savings they have.

You need to complete a claim form which you can get from Ashfield District Council, Urban Road, Kirkby or at Fox Street, Sutton, or Watnall Road, Hucknall. For more information you can call Ashfield District Council Revenues on 01623 4574000.

Community Care Grants from the Social Fund

You do not have to repay a community care grant.

You can apply for a Community Care Grant if you need help to;

- Stay in your own home;
- Return to your own home from a place where you have been getting care; or
- Ease exceptional pressures on you or your family.

It is for things like furniture, cookers, carpets, clothes, a bed, bedding etc.

You need to be in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credit.

You need to complete a form which you can get from your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security Office.

Budgeting Loans

You will have to pay the loan back, however it is interest free and is meant to help you spread the cost of one-off expenses over a longer period.

This loan could be for you if you have been in receipt of benefit for at least 26 weeks.

The amount you can borrow will depend on your personal circumstances, how long you have been getting benefits and how many people are in your household. The amount you could borrow also depends on the amounts of Budgeting Loans you may already have.

You can get a loan to help buy items such as furniture, household goods, clothes, shoes or expenses such as rent, removal costs or home improvements, or help with hire purchase and other debts.

You need to complete a form which you can get from your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security Office.

Sure Start Maternity Grant

You may be able to get a Sure Start Maternity Grant if you or your partner; are getting Income Support, Income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit which includes a disability or sever disability element or Child Tax Credit at a higher rate than the family element and, and you need help with buying things for a baby that; has recently been born, or, is expected to be born in the next 11 weeks, or you have recently adopted, or, is the subject of a parental order.

You must be the mother or expectant mother or the baby and you must be aged 16 or over, or be the partner of the mother or expectant mother, or have adopted the baby, or, be getting benefit for the mother or expectant mother if she is aged under 19, or, have been granted a parental order.

You can claim in the period from 11 weeks before the week your baby is due until 3 months after your baby is born. If you are adopting you can claim 3 months after the time you adopted the baby but the baby should not be more than 1 year old when you claim. You need to complete a form which you can get from your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security Office.

Disability Living Allowance

This is a tax free benefit for people with an illness or a disability, who need help with getting around, or help with personal care, or help with both of these. It is not affected by savings, and it is not usually affected by any other money you have coming in. It is usually ignored as income for working out Income Support and Jobseekers Allowance. You need to complete a form which you can get from your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security Office or by telephoning 0845 712 3456.

Attendance Allowance for people aged 65 or over

This is a tax free benefit for people aged 65 or over with an illness or disability who need help with personal care. It is not affected by savings, and it is not usually affected by any other money you have coming in. It is usually ignored as income for working out Income Support. If you start to get Attendance Allowance, it might increase other benefits you are getting for example Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit.

Normally, you can only get Attendance Allowance if you have needed help for 6 months. You can still claim even if you do not actually get the help you need. You can claim if you live alone. You need to complete a form which you can get from your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security Office or by telephoning 0845 712 3456.

Carers Allowance

If you are claiming Attendance Allowance and there is someone looking after you for 35 hours or more a week, they may be able to get Carers Allowance. You need to complete a form which you can get from your local Jobcentre Plus or Social Security Office or by telephoning 01253 856123.

Tax Credits

If you are on a low income Working Tax Credit can be paid on top of your wages if you are employed or self-employed for more than 16 hours a week.

Child Tax Credit can be claimed for all children aged 16 or under, for under 19 year olds in full time education where Child Benefit is awarded.

To apply you need to complete an application form by telephoning 0845 300 3900.

Pension Credits

You can claim if you are aged 60 or over. The amounts you are entitled to depends upon your income. To apply you need to telephone 0800 99 1234.

Contact Details

If you want general advice about **Welfare Benefits** you can call the Benefit Enquiry Line 0800 88 22 00 (for people with speech or hearing problems using a textphone can dial 0800 24 33 55).

If you want advice about **Tax Credits** you can call their helpline 0845 300 3900 (for people with speech or hearing problems using a textphone can dial 0845 300 3909).

If you want information about **Pension Credit** you can call 0800 99 1234 (for people with speech or hearing problems using a textphone can dial 0800 169 0133).

Other agencies who can provide advice and may help you complete claim forms include;

- Ashfield District - Citizens Advice Bureau telephone number 0870 126 4873
- Nottinghamshire County Councils County Contact 01623 476800
- Nottinghamshire County Councils Welfare Rights Advice Helpline 0845 601 5943.

Money Management Advice

Ashfield Homes Ltd have a Money Management Advisor Service. This is a home visiting service aimed to provide a quality money management and welfare benefit advice service to help you as tenants to maintain your tenancies and maximise your income.

For more information or to make an appointment please contact the Money Management Advisor on 01623 608910.



هەر زانیاریهك ده‌بارهی ئاشفیلد هۆمس كه به زمانی ئینگلیزی نوسراوه نه‌توانیٔ بو زمانی كوردی ته‌رجومه
بكریٔ. تكایه داوای زانیاری زیاتر له نه‌ندامیكى ده‌سته‌ی فه‌رمانبه‌ران بكه.
(Kurdish)

Ashfield Homes 印製的所有英文刊物，都可翻譯成中文。請聯絡本處職員，查
詢詳情。
(Cantonese)

ایشفیلڈ ہومز سے متعلق انگریزی زبان میں دستیاب کسی بھی معلومات کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ فراہم کیا جاسکتا ہے، مزید معلومات کے لیے برائے مہربانی
اسٹاف کے کسی رکن سے بات کریں۔
(Urdu)

અંગ્રેજીમાં લખેલ એશફીલ્ડ હોમ્સની કોઈ પણ માહિતી ગુજરાતીમાં તરજૂમો થઈ શકે -
કૃપા કરી વઘારે વિગત માટે સ્ટાફના સભ્યને પૂછો
(Gujurati)

Wszelkie informacje dotyczące Ashfield Homes napisane po angielsku mogą być przetłumaczone
na język polski - o dalsze szczegóły proszę zapytać osobę z personelu.
(Polish)

Toute l'information de maisons d'Ashfield est disponible dans d'autres
langues
(French)

Any Ashfield Homes information is available in large print, audio, Braille and
other languages. Please contact Jeanette Worthington, Tenant Participation
Officer on 01623 608921 Minicom 01623 608989.