

Factsheet B4: What Benefits can I claim?

This is a simple guide outlining the range of different benefits, designed either for claimants who have a disability, or for their families/carers. See our Factsheet: How to Make a Claim for details of how to claim each benefit.

Children and Young People

A parent or guardian can claim **Disability Living Allowance** on behalf of a disabled child under 16 if they have problems with mobility or need more help with personal care than would be expected for their age, or a much greater need for supervision throughout the day or night. Please see our Factsheet: Benefits for Children and Young People.

Benefits for people who are able to work

Means-tested benefits for working age people will be gradually replaced by **Universal Credit**. Means-testing is when they assess whether you have enough money to live on. If you already have enough income or savings, you may not qualify for means-tested benefits.

If you are working but on a low income, you may be able to claim a means-tested top-up to your income or benefits through **Working Tax Credits** or **Income Support**. People with dependent children may also claim **Child Tax Credit**. To get Child Tax Credit your child would need to be under 16, or between 16 and 19 in full-time non-advanced training.

From 6 April 2017:

- The individual child element of Child Tax Credit will no longer be awarded for third and subsequent children or qualifying young persons



in a household who are born on or after 6 April 2017. There are exceptions, for more information go to www.gov.uk/hmrc/ctc-exceptions

- The family element of Child Tax Credit will only be payable for children born before 6 April 2017

The qualifying criteria for childcare element of Working Tax Credit and child disability element of Child Tax Credit remain the same for all children.

To get Working Tax Credit you need to be at least 16, and working a minimum of 16 hours per week – but this only applies if you are disabled, are over 60, or you are a single parent (or if you are a parent and part of a couple, you work 24 hours between you, unless one of you is also a carer). Otherwise you need to be over 25 and working over 30 hours per week.

You may be able to get **Income Support** if you have no income or a low income, you're working less than 16 hours a week and/or you haven't signed on as unemployed. If you don't have to sign on for Jobseeker's Allowance because you are a carer, or because you are a lone parent with a young child, you should be able to claim Income Support.

You should sign on for **Jobseeker's Allowance** if you are looking for work. You can get it for 6 months if you have paid enough National Insurance Contributions, and then possibly on a means-tested basis (against the income of your household) for as long as you qualify. You should also claim if you have no other income, are working age and have been told you cannot get Employment and Support Allowance, even if you disagree with the decision. See our Factsheet: Reconsiderations and Appeals if this applies to you.



someone with you when you go out). The second part (the daily living component) looks at what sort of help you need at home. Please see our Factsheet: What is PIP.

If you do get an award of the mobility part of this benefit, you may be entitled to a **Blue Badge** or to buy a vehicle through the **Motability Scheme**. Please see our Factsheet: Motability, Blue Badge and Road Tax.

If you get an award of the daily living part, someone who looks after you may be entitled to claim **Carer's Allowance** as long as they don't earn over £120 a week and look after you for at least 35 hours per week. Please see our Factsheet: Help for Carers.

Disability Living Allowance has been replaced for adults by **Personal Independence Payments**, although you may continue to receive Disability Living Allowance until you are transferred to the new benefit, depending on how long your benefit was awarded for. If you were born before 8th April 1948 you will continue to receive Disability Living Allowance for as long as you remain entitled.

If you are employed and have been injured in an accident at work, or you have a disease that has been caused by your work, you may be able to claim **Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit**. You can check if you are eligible at www.gov.uk/industrial-injuries-disablement-benefit or call 0800 121 8379.

Older People

Once you have reached state retirement age you can claim **Pension Credit**. This is a means-tested benefit that can top-up a state retirement



pension, but some account will be taken of any work pensions or personal pension income. You may also be eligible for a Winter Fuel Allowance and further help, for example with a free TV License for those over 75. Please see our Factsheet: Benefits for Older People.

There is further information about all of these (and many other) benefits on our website (including tips about how to make a claim and fill in the forms), and on the separate factsheets which go into more specific detail.

If you require further information or would like this factsheet in an alternative format you can contact us by calling: 01508 491210, by emailing: info@equallives.org.uk, or by writing to: Equal Lives, 15 Manor Farm Barns, Fox Road, Framingham Pigot, Norfolk, NR14 7PZ.

