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Background

Universal Credit replaces 6 benefits and tax credits for working age adults with a single monthly payment for the household. The benefits it replaces (referred to as 'legacy' benefits) are: Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, and Working and Child Tax Credit. Universal Credit 'Full Service' is now available across all of Blackpool.

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Why it matters

Residents who receive 'legacy' benefits may move when a change of circumstances affects their benefits. This includes households becoming responsible for their first child or when people join or leave the household, for example when a new partner moves in. Families with 3 or more children will not move until 2019. To check eligibility visit [Universal Credit Eligibility Checker](#)

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Information

New claims are made and managed online and the first payment is usually received around 5-6 weeks after the claim has been made. It is a single household payment, paid monthly in arrears, to 1 partner, even if 2 are eligible and claiming. The amount can fluctuate as it is based on the previous months income.

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Personal Budgeting Support' gives help to manage all aspects of a monthly budget; residents can be referred by their Work Coach. Each Job Centre offers digital access and support where residents can use PCs and get online for free and in all the libraries. Any help you get with your rent will be included in your monthly Universal Credit payment so you will be responsible for paying your rent to your landlord.

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You should only apply to Blackpool Council for help with your **rent** if:

You are a pensioner (and your partner if you have one is a pensioner), or You (and your partner if you have one) receive [Severe Disability Premium](#) (SDP) and haven't received Universal Credit in the last 6 months, or You live in a hostel, refuge, sheltered housing or a supported living complex

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What to do

Claimants can contact the UC helpline on 0800 328 9344 to request help at any time, or should talk to their DWP Work Coach. To find out more about Universal Credit, visit the [Understanding Universal Credit](#) website or watch [Universal Credit Full Service Overview YouTube](#)

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Questions to consider

To make a claim, visit www.gov.uk/universal-credit

Universal Credit does not include help towards your council tax. [You need to apply to the council for help with this.](#)

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit you may be entitled to free school meals for your child/children. For more information on school meals click [here](#).

