

Income support fact sheet

Who is eligible?	Changes to Income Support for lone parents
<p>You may be able to get Income Support if you're aged 16 to 59 and any of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're a lone parent • You're registered sick or disabled • You're a student and either a lone parent or disabled • You're caring for someone who's sick or elderly <p>And the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You don't have savings of £16,000 or more • You're not working, or work on average less than 16 hours a week <p>* Between 2010 and 2020 the maximum age up to which men and women will be able to receive working age benefits will rise in line with the increase in women's State Pension age from 60 to 65</p> <p>Who isn't eligible?</p> <p>If you work on average more than 16 hours a week, or have a partner or civil partner who works on average 24 hours a week or more you can't usually claim Income Support</p>	<p>There are changes to Income Support that may affect your entitlement if you're receiving it because you're a lone parent.</p> <p>These changes will be phased in over three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 24 November 2008, if your youngest child is aged 12 or over, or will be 12 in the next year, your Income Support may stop during that year if you are only claiming it because you are a lone parent • From 26 October 2009, if your youngest child is aged ten or over, or will be ten in the next year, your Income Support may stop during that year if you are only claiming it because you are a lone parent • From 25 October 2010, if your youngest child is aged seven or over, or will be seven in the next year, your Income Support may stop during that year if you are only claiming it because you are a lone parent
How much do you get?	How it's paid
<p>The amount of Income Support you may get varies according to your individual circumstances. Some factors that can affect how much you'll get include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your age • If you live alone or as a couple 	<p>Income Support is paid directly into your bank, building society, Post Office® or National Savings account that accepts Direct Payment</p> <p>But you can get cheque payments cashable at a Post Office® if you're unable to open or manage an account</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age and income of non-dependants living with you • Disability – including disability of dependants • If you're caring for someone • Any savings over £6,000 you or your partner or civil partner have • Any earnings you or your partner or civil partner have 	<p>From April 2009 Jobcentre Plus are introducing changes to the day and how often you are paid Income Support. The changes could move the day you are paid, this day will be determined by your National Insurance number. The changes also mean you will be paid at least every two weeks</p>
<p>Effect on other financial help</p>	<p>How to claim</p>
<p>If you're entitled to Income Support, you automatically qualify for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free dental care • Free prescriptions • Free school meals • Council Tax Benefit 	<p>Call 0800 055 6688 (8.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday)</p> <p>A textphone service is available if you have a speech or hearing impairment 0800 023 4888</p> <p>Or you can claim online at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk</p> <p>Callback</p> <p>After you've first spoken to an officer they'll call you back to book an appointment for you to see a financial assessor and personal adviser</p> <p>The financial assessor will check you've given all the information to support your claim before your work-focused interview with a personal adviser who'll help you find work</p>