

# Carers allowance

## How it works

You could get £62.10 a week if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get certain benefits.

## Eligibility

### The person you care for

The person you care for must already get one of these benefits:

- Personal Independence Payment - daily living component
- Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate
- Attendance Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension
- Armed Forces Independence Payment

### You

You might be able to get Carer's Allowance if all of the following apply:

- you're 16 or over
- you spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone
- have been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years
- you normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or you live abroad as a member of the armed forces
- you're not in full-time education
- you're not studying for 21 hours a week or more
- you earn no more than £110 a week (after taxes, care costs while you're at work and 50% of what you pay into your pension) - don't count your pension as income
- you're not subject to immigration control

You might still be eligible if you're moving to or already living in another EEA country.

You don't have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for.

You won't be paid extra if you care for more than one person.

Carer's Allowance can affect the other benefits that you and the person you care for get.

## Effect on the benefits of the person you care for

When you claim Carer's Allowance, the person you care for will stop getting:

- a severe disability premium paid with their benefits
- an extra amount for severe disability paid with Pension Credit, if they get one
- Reduced Council Tax - contact their local council to find out if this affects them

### Effect on your benefits

When you claim Carer's Allowance your other benefits may be reduced, but your total benefit payments will usually either go up or stay the same.

The benefits cap limits the amount of benefit that most people aged 16 to 64 can get. Some individual benefits aren't affected, but it may affect the total amount of benefit you get.

If you get Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit, you must contact the Tax Credit office to tell them about Carer's Allowance claim.

You have to pay tax on it if your income is over the Personal Allowance

### **How you're paid**

You can choose to be paid:

- weekly in advance
- every 4 weeks
- every 13 weeks

It will be paid into an account, eg your bank account.

### **What else you can get**

For each week you get Carer's Allowance you'll automatically get:

- National Insurance credits
- contributions to your Additional State Pension

You may also be able to apply for support from your local council and a Council Tax Reduction

### **Make a claim**

#### **You will need**

Before you apply make sure you have:

- your National Insurance number
- the date of birth and address of the person you're caring for
- your bank or building society details

You may need to provide course details if you are studying, and any employment details including dates and how much you were paid.

You can backdate your claim by up to 3 months.

Look on the [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) to find out more information and apply you can also use the following calculators on their website see the links below

### **Calculators**

Use one of the following:

- [Turn2us](#) - for information on income-related benefits, tax credits, Council Tax Reduction, Carer's Allowance, Universal Credit and how your benefits will be affected if you start work or change your working hours
- [entitledto](#) - for information on income-related benefits, tax credits, contribution-based benefits, Council Tax Reduction, Carer's Allowance, Universal Credit and how your benefits will be affected if you start work

### **What you'll need**

You'll need accurate information about your:

- savings <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- income, including your partner's (eg from payslips)
- existing benefits and pensions (including anyone living with you) <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- outgoings (eg rent, mortgage, childcare payments) <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
- council tax bill

### Who can't use them

You can't use the calculators if you're under 18, and they won't give accurate results if you're:

- a prisoner
- a student
- not a British or Irish citizen
- on strike
- living outside the UK
- living permanently in residential care or a nursing home