

**Other benefits
that are changing
alongside
Universal Credit**

Improving benefits

Universal Credit is replacing six of the existing work related benefits and bringing them together to provide the right support for you, both in and out of work.

There are several other benefits outlined here which will also change to make the whole system better and more helpful for you.

Advance payments and budgeting loans

Universal Credit will mirror the world of work and you will be able to request an advance payment. You will be able to ask for an advance to borrow money to cover one-off expenses such as clothes or furniture.

You can also ask for a short-term advance for the first payment of Universal Credit, to help you manage the transition to monthly payments. If you get an advance, your future monthly payments will be reduced to make up for this.

Budgeting loans will still be available if you are claiming existing benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance.

Council Tax Benefit

Council Tax Benefit is changing. Each local authority in England will put in place a new system to provide the right incentives to work and the right support for those most in need. Scotland and Wales are preparing their plans as well.

Universal Credit will share information about your claim with your local authority to decide how much of a rebate your household will get. As Universal Credit is introduced, each local authority will review their support.

Social Fund

Social Fund support will be changing alongside Universal Credit. From April 2013 some parts of it will be provided through Universal Credit whilst other parts will be replaced by new local services. Instead, new services will be provided by local authorities and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants

Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants will be replaced by a local system which will be led by local authorities and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Your local authority is best placed to assess your situation fairly and to provide for you if you are facing a crisis or short-term need. It will be much more helpful for this to be provided locally than by the current complex and remote system.

Cold Weather Payments, Sure Start Maternity Grant and Funeral Payments

Based on your income and personal situation, you may still be able to claim Cold Weather Payments, the Sure Start Maternity Grant and Funeral Payments with Universal Credit. Rules will be set up to make sure that help goes to those who have the greatest need. Therefore not everyone on Universal Credit will be able to get these payments.

Other help

Help with things like free prescriptions is provided by other parts of government if you are on a low income. Check www.nhs.uk/uc-healthcosts for more information.

If you are eligible for this help now, you will still be able to get it if you claim Universal Credit from 29 April 2013.

As Universal Credit is introduced across the country, new rules about who can claim this help and how they can do so will be put in place. Eligibility for this help will depend on how your family unit is made up and on how much take home pay you receive each month. You will need to check the relevant department's website to see if you are eligible.

When will this happen?

From April 2013 new Local Council Tax Support schemes will be introduced across Great Britain and local authorities will set up new local provision. Benefit advances will be introduced for those claiming Universal Credit in the Pathfinder area.

From October 2013 changes to other help and who can apply will start to be introduced.