

second adult rebates

If your income is too high for Council Tax Benefit, you may be able to get up to 25% off your bill if someone sharing your home is on a low income.

To qualify, the person or people sharing your home must **not** be:

- your partner (married or unmarried)
- under 18
- paying rent
- already ignored on your Council Tax bill.

who should claim?

The person who receives the Council Tax bill, not the second adult.

how much benefit will I get?

You can get rebates of 25%, 15% and 7.5% of your Council Tax depending on the second adult's circumstances.

Please apply for both Council Tax Benefit and second adult rebate and we will award the benefit that gives you the most help.

For more information please see the separate leaflet 'Second Adult Rebate'.

...and finally

Now you have read this leaflet please make a claim for Council Tax Benefit.

You may be pensioner

You may work

You may be single or have a family

You may be on Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance.

But to get your benefit you must make a claim.

Claim now!

To make sure that you do not lose your benefit

Breckland Council

Revenues Services
Breckland House
St Nicholas Street
Thetford IP24 1BT
Phone: 01362 656872
Fax: 01842 756513

Forest Heath District Council

Benefits Section
College Heath Road
Mildenhall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP28 7UZ
Phone: 0800 163030

Customer Counter open Monday to Friday
See our website: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk

If you prefer independent advice why not contact:

- Welfare Rights Officer
- any Advice Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau or Law Centre.

(updated may 04) hb12.pub

Anglia Revenues Partnership



Council Tax Benefit
You could get all your
Council Tax paid



Revenues Services

who can claim Council Tax Benefit?

If you pay Council Tax for the home where you are living you can claim Council Tax Benefit. You cannot get benefit to help pay Council Tax for a home which is not your permanent home (for example a second home).

The benefit you receive will depend upon:

- the Council Tax you pay
- the needs of your family
- your income
- your savings
- the people who live with you.

how much benefit can I get?

We can pay all your Council Tax . If you are entitled to any discounts on your Council Tax we will take these into account before we work out your benefit.

how are my needs decided?

The money you need to live on is worked out from figures that the government sets each April. You get allowances for yourself and for the members of your family, and there are extra premiums.

If you are a pensioner receiving Pension Credits we will assess your Council Tax benefit on the income details the Pension Service hold.

The premiums are awarded for extra expenses you may have if:

- you have a family
- you are disabled or have a disabled child
- you are a pensioner
- you care for someone

Your allowances and premiums are added together to give your 'Applicable Amount'. This represents your needs for one week.

If your benefit is not enough you may be able to ask for more help through the Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme. Please ask for details.

how is my income worked out?

Your income is all the money you receive in one week. This includes earnings, pensions, other benefits and an assumed income from any savings.

Earnings include money you receive from employment and from self employment.

We take off income tax, national insurance and half of any pension contributions you pay. We can also ignore at least £5 of your earnings.

Some benefits such as Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are completely ignored.

If you have a partner, both your incomes are added together.

how are my savings included?

You are not entitled to benefit if you have more than £16,000 in savings unless you receive Guaranteed Pension Credit.

If you have savings of less than £3,000 these will not be used to work out your benefit.

If you have between £3,000 and £16,000, we have to assume you are getting an income of £1 a week for every £250 (or part of £250) you have above £3,000 (or above £6000 if you are over 60). We will add this to your actual income. If you are over 65 we assume an income of £1 a week for every £500.

what if I have people living with my family?

Your Council Tax Benefit will be less if you have a 'non- dependant' living with you, such as an adult son or daughter. The deductions are set each year and depend upon the person's income. Please see the non-dependants leaflet.

how is my benefit worked out?

If you receive Income Support, Jobseeker Allowance (Income Based) or Guaranteed Pension Credit you will get all your Council Tax paid (but less any 'non dependant deductions').

If you do not receive Income Support or Guaranteed Pension Credits the money you have coming in is compared with the money you need to live on.

If your income is above your 'Applicable Amount' we have to take 20 pence from your benefit for every £1 of income above the applicable amount.

how will I be paid?

Once your benefit has been worked out we will credit your Council Tax account with the benefit you are due. The amount of benefit awarded will then change throughout the year if your circumstances change.

You must tell the Benefits Office staff about any changes in your circumstances that may affect your benefit.