

# INCOME SUPPORT

## WHAT IS IT?

It is paid to people under 60 whose income falls below a certain level. It can be paid:-

- ◆ to top up other Benefits.
- ◆ to top up part-time earnings.
- ◆ if you have no money coming in at all.

## TO QUALIFY

- ◆ Your capital (savings/assets, but not including your home) must total less than £16,000 - the first £6,000 is ignored.
- ◆ You will lose £1.00 per week from your Income Support for every £250 [or part of £250] between £6,000 and £16,000.
- ◆ If you are living permanently in a Residential Care or Nursing Home your capital must not be above £16,000
  - the first £10,000 is ignored. You lose £1.00 per week from your Income Support for every £250 between £10,000 and £16,000.
- ◆ You must not work 16 hours or more and your partner must not work more than 24 hours or more per week (There are exceptions for disabled people)
- ◆ You must be in Great Britain.
- ◆ You must be 16 years or over.
- ◆ You must be in a category of people who do not have to look for work.  
NB: from 27/10/08, new claimants who are unfit for work claim income-related Employment & Support Allowance (ESA [IR]) instead.

## HOW MUCH?

This depends on your circumstances, e.g.

- ◆ Your Income and Savings.
- ◆ You and your partner's ages.
- ◆ Certain housing costs.
- ◆ Which premiums (top-ups) you are entitled to.  
See Benefit Rates for current amounts.

## **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- ◆ If you do not have much money coming in, it is always worth checking if you might qualify for Income Support, even temporarily such as when you are off work sick.
- ◆ If your circumstances change e.g. going into Residential Care or splitting with your partner, always **check** your Income Support. It may change.
- ◆ Benefit rates change every year in April. It is a good idea to check your entitlement around this time.
- ◆ If both you and your partner get Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance you may be entitled to **more** Income Support.
- ◆ The first £5 to £20 (depending on circumstances) of earnings is not counted as income.
- ◆ Getting Income Support may entitle you to a number of other Benefits, e.g.
  - Maximum Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.
  - Social Fund Payments (Community Care Grants, Loans, Sure start Maternity Payment, Funeral Payment, Cold Weather Payment).
  - Health Costs (Free NHS prescriptions, Free NHS sight tests and vouchers towards glasses, NHS Dental Treatment, NHS wigs and fabric supports, Fares to hospital or clinic).
  - Free School Meals for your children.
  - Help with housing costs (e.g. mortgage interest).

## **HOW TO CLAIM**

- ◆ Form A 1.

You will need to telephone your local Jobcentre Plus on 0845 602 0265.

## **FURTHER HELP**

- ◆ If you need help filling in the claim form, or are refused Income Support and you want to challenge their decision, contact your local Advice Centre.

**The information in this factsheet is correct as of October 2009**

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