



PENSION CREDIT



WHAT IS IT?

It is paid to people aged 60 and over whose income falls below a certain level. It is paid:-

- ◆ To top up other income.
- ◆ If you have no money coming in at all.

There are 2 parts to the Pension Credit – the Guarantee Credit and the Savings Credit.

When you apply, the Pension Service will automatically calculate both parts, and you may get either or both.

The Guarantee Credit is the basic amount, but note that it is much more than Income Support for someone aged under 60. At 2009/10 rates, you may be eligible if your pensions total less than £130.00 (single person) or £198.45 (couple)

The Savings Credit 'rewards' you for having savings, a State Retirement Pension above the basic level (currently £95.25), or private/work pensions. Applies to people aged 65 and over.

TO QUALIFY

- ◆ There is no upper capital limit, but you will lose £1.00 per week off Pension Credit for every £500 (or part of £500) above £6,000.
- ◆ You must be in Great Britain.
- ◆ Either you, or your partner [or both of you] must be over 60.

HOW MUCH?

This depends on your circumstances, e.g.

- ◆ Your income and savings.
- ◆ You and your partner's ages.
- ◆ Certain housing costs.
- ◆ Which "additions" you are entitled to. See benefit rates for current amounts.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ It is always worth checking if you are entitled to Pension Credit. Remember, Pension Credit is more generous than its predecessor, so don't assume you won't be entitled.

- ◆ If your circumstances change e.g. going into residential care or splitting with your partner, always **check** your Pension Credit. 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 Care Component or Attendance Allowance you may be entitled to **more** Pension Credit.
- ◆ The first £5 - £20 (depending on circumstances) earnings is not counted as income.
- ◆ Getting Pension Credit 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 any dependent children.
 - Help with housing costs (e.g. mortgage interest).
- ◆ If you are looking after someone who gets Attendance Allowance or the middle or higher rate of Disability Living Allowance Care Component, you might get more Pension Credit. See also factsheets Carers Premium (Pb44) and claiming Carers Allowance on a Retirement Pension (Pb46).

HOW TO CLAIM

- ◆ Form **PC1**.
 - Telephone 0800 991234 - you can complete your claim over the phone or request a form
 - or visit a local Pension Service surgery – phone 0845 606 0265 for details.

FURTHER HELP

- ◆ If you need help filling in the form, or are refused Pension Credit, contact your local Advice Centre.

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2009

NB: This item may not be reproduced without prior agreement or acknowledgement

*Produced by Warwickshire Welfare Rights Advice Service
 Funded by: Warwickshire County Council
 Charity Reg No: 1113524
 Company No. 5730678*

