



UK Government

Communicating Help for Households and Cost of Living Payments

Updated stakeholder toolkit including:

- downloadable poster and ordering instructions
- social media copy and assets in English and Welsh
- newsletter copy, FAQs and links
- factsheet
- adaptable assets for stakeholders
- printable PDF for stakeholders

Help for Households



How to talk about Help for Households and the Cost of Living Payments

The Government is providing £37 billion this year to help households combat the rising cost of living.

We know this may lead to questions about how much people may be entitled to.

This toolkit sets out

- what the different payments are and when they will start being paid
- who is eligible for the payments
- how stakeholders can support their customers

Click [here](#) for our full asset pack including social media assets and suggested social copy



Example social media copy and assets for use on your channels

Cost of Living Payment Households may receive £650 if they are on means tested benefits, including [#UniversalCredit](#) and [#PensionCredit](#)

Check eligibility here: [Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)

Contact external.affairs@dwp.gov.uk for more information

Suggested social media copy

- If you are claiming a low-income benefit and think that you are entitled to a Cost of Living Payment, you don't need to do anything. You'll get the payments automatically. To find out more visit: [Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)
- The first instalment of the £650 Cost of Living Payments will be paid automatically to eligible people, between 14 - 31 July. The remaining £324 will be paid in autumn. To find out more visit: [Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)
- Did you know that households on means tested benefits, including Universal Credit and Pension Credit, may receive a payment of £650 this year? This will be made automatically in two instalments - the first £326 of which will be paid between 14 - 31 July. To find out more visit: [Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)

More social media posts are available by clicking the link [here](#)



Newsletter copy and leaflet/poster

Newsletter copy

Millions of people on means-tested benefits will receive the first of two Cost of Living Payments totalling £650 from 14 July 2022, as part of a £37billion government package to help families with cost of living pressures.

The first £326 instalment for qualifying low-income households in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be paid by their usual payment method from 14 July 2022, continuing to the end of the month. For those eligible, the rest will follow in a second instalment in the autumn.

People receiving tax credits and no other eligible benefits will receive their first payment from HMRC in autumn and the second in winter.

In total, millions of vulnerable households will receive at least £1,200 from the Government this year to help cover rising costs. There are specific payments for those on means tested benefits, for pensioners, those on disability benefits and to help people with energy bills.

For more information, go to the [Cost Of Living Payment page](#) on gov.uk

Poster for stakeholders

UK Government

Help for Households

Cost of Living Payments

FROM JULY 2022
Cost of Living Payment
PAYMENT 1 OF 2
£326

AUTUMN 2022
Cost of Living Payment
PAYMENT 2 OF 2
£324

If you claim some benefits, you might be eligible for an additional £650 from the UK Government, spread over two Cost of Living Payments. The first payment will be for £326, and the second payment of £324 will be paid later in the year.

You don't need to contact anyone; your payment is automatic.

Find out what you will get and when you will receive a payment by searching 'cost of living support'*.

gov.uk/costoflivingpayments

Find out more

*Eligibility criteria apply

Click [here](#) for the newsletter copy and poster, and translated versions in Welsh



Help for Households - What people need to know

- [Need to know more? Our factsheet can help provide more answers](#)
- More than eight million people on means-tested benefits will receive a payment of £650 this year, made in two instalments. This includes all eligible households receiving at least 1 pence on the qualifying date of the following benefits; **Universal Credit, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit**
- **The first payment of £326** will be made to **households in payment of a qualifying benefit between April 26 and May 25 from July 14**, with a further £324 to be paid from September – totaling £650. For eligible households on tax credits only, the first payment will be made in the autumn and the second in the winter. Payments will be made automatically via usual payment methods – people do not need to contact HMRC or DWP or apply for the payment ([Read more](#))
- **There will also be a £150 payment** made to people on qualifying disability benefits which can be in addition to the above due to be paid **in September**
- **There will also be an extra £300** for pensioner households paid as an increase to their winter fuel payment to be paid from mid-November
- **In addition to these payments, there is also the *Energy Bills Support Scheme* which will see all domestic energy customers receive a one-off rebate of £400 paid by their energy providers.** This money will not need to be paid back
- Households liable for Council Tax in Bands A-D in England have received a £150 Council Tax Rebate to help with the rising cost of bills ([Read more](#))
- *And the government has also extended the Household Support Fund until March 2023*, providing an extra £421million of local support in England and £79 million to the Devolved Administrations ([Read more](#))



Frequently asked questions

The attached factsheet should help you assist – in addition, the following top-level FAQs may answer any questions:

Q: How do people apply for these Cost of Living Payments?

A: People do not need to apply for Cost of Living payments. If they are eligible, they will be paid automatically in the same way that they usually receive their benefit or tax credits.

Q: Will these payments affect other benefits?

A: These payments are not taxable and will not affect the benefits or tax credits people already receive.

Q: How will people know they are eligible? What are the qualifying dates and requirements?

A: To get the first Cost of Living Payment of £326, people must have been entitled to a payment (or later found to be entitled to a payment) of either Universal Credit for an assessment period that ended in the period 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022 or income-based JSA, income-related ESA, Income Support or Pension Credit for any day in the period 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022. For Tax Credit customers – To get the first Cost of Living Payment of £326, customers must have received a payment, or an annual award

of at least £26, of tax credits for any day in the period 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022. GOV.UK will be updated when the qualifying dates to get the second payment of £324 have been announced by the Government.

Q: When will the second cost of living payment be paid?

A: We will be communicating with customers when payment dates for the second payment of £324 are confirmed, but we expect this to be by the end of September 2022. Eligible customers receiving tax credits only, will receive their second payment in Winter 2022.

Q: Why are the two amounts, of £326 and £324, slightly different?

A: This will help people to know they have received both payments and avoid the risk of fraud and duplicate payments.

Q: What if a customer gets child tax credit and working tax credit?

A: If you get both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit, you will receive one set of Cost of Living Payments, linked to Child Tax Credit only.

Q: I get additional benefits. Will this affect how much I get?

A: If you receive tax credits from HMRC or a qualifying low income benefit from DWP, you will receive a Cost of Living Payment from DWP or HMRC. If you also get a qualifying disability benefit, you may receive an additional Disability Cost of Living Payment from DWP.

Q: Why are tax credits customers getting paid later?

A: It's possible for customers to be entitled to both tax credits and other eligible benefits which are administered by DWP. So, HMRC will make payments to eligible customers receiving tax credits only, shortly after DWP, to avoid duplicate payments.

Useful links

- **Download files to support customers** [here](#)
- [Use the HM Gov benefits checker to find out what you might be entitled to](#)
- Use an independent [benefits calculator](#) to find out what benefits you could get
- [DWP Press Release](#)
- Independent News Article: [Can I get the £650 cost of living payment?](#)
- [Cost Of Living Factsheet](#)
- [Cost Of Living campaign website](#)
- You may be able to get other kinds of support, including:
 - help from the Household Support Fund from [your local council](#) in England
 - [Pension Credit calculator](#)
 - [Understanding Universal Credit](#)
 - the [Discretionary Assistance Fund](#) in Wales
 - a [Crisis Grant or Community Care Grant](#) in Scotland
 - [Discretionary Support or a Short-term Benefit Advance](#) in Northern Ireland