

## UNIVERSAL CREDIT – SHOULD YOU CLAIM?

If you are on Housing Benefit and you have any changes stated below you must claim Universal Credit. You can claim on-line at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>

### Household becomes responsible for a child for the 1st time

Claimants living in a Universal Credit Full Service area are no longer able to make a new claim to Tax Credits and should be advised if they wish to claim for additional financial support because they have a child living with them to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### Move from out of work to in work

Current JSA(IB)/ IS claimants, or their partners, who increase their working hours or start work such that they no longer meet the conditions for JSA/IS are no longer able to make a new claim to Tax Credits if they live in a Universal Credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### Move from in work to out of work

Current WTC claimants whose hours reduce to less than 16 hours per week are no longer able to make a new claim to JSA(IB) or IS if they live in a Universal Credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### Move from out of work to sick

Current JSA(IB)/ IS claimants are no longer able to make a new claim to ESA(IR) if they live in a Universal Credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### Move from sick to out of work

Current ESA(IR) claimants are no longer able to make a new claim to JSA(IB) or IS if they live in a Universal Credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### Move from sick to in work (or permitted work becomes permanent)

Current ESA(IR) claimants are no longer able to make a new claim to Tax Credits if they live in a Universal credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### Move from in work to sick (reduction in hours due to sickness)

Current WTC claimants are no longer able to make a new claim to ESA(IR) if they live in a Universal Credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### IS lone parent child under 5 reaches age 5 or permanently leaves household

Current IS claimants are no longer able to make a new claim to JSA(IB)/ ESA(IR) when their award to IS ends if they live in a Universal Credit Full Service area and should be advised to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

#### HB claimant moves from a UC Live Service LA into a UC Full Service LA

Existing HB claimants with the exception of those claimants living in SEA or TA, who move into a Universal Credit Full service area LA are no longer able to make a new claim to HB in the new LA area and should be advised if they wish to continue to obtain financial support with their rent to make an online claim to Universal Credit.

### Stopping an existing claim when a claim to Universal Credit-Full Service is made

If a new claim to Universal Credit Full Service is made and there is a current JSA(IB)/ ESA(IR)/ IS/ HB or Tax Credits claim. Universal Credit full service will contact Benefit Centres/Local Authorities and/or Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to stop the existing claim where appropriate .