

# Housing costs – Paying for two homes

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## Overview

Universal Credit can be paid on two homes, for any of the following reasons:

- a Benefit Unit leaves their normal residence through fear of violence but intend to return
- a member of a Benefit unit receiving a specified benefit paid on account of disability changes address and incurs two liabilities because required adaptations delay the move to the new home
- a Benefit Unit is so large, the housing authority house them in two properties

## Adaptations due to a disability

A claimant paying rent on two properties due to adaptations required for a member of their Benefit Unit, to a new home, for example, a chair-lift or wheelchair ramp. If the move to a new home is delayed and the move is acceptable, liability for both homes can be provided for up to 1 assessment period.

Help towards both rents is only provided if a member of the benefit unit receives any of the following benefits:

- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (care component at the middle or highest rate)
- Personal Independence Payment (daily living component at either rate)
- Constant Attendance Allowance (paid as part of Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit or War Disablement Benefit)

## Fear of violence

Cases where there is a fear of violence within the home or by a former partner, a claimant or a member of the Benefit Unit. The claimant with members of their Benefit Unit may move to another home temporarily. In this case help with housing costs towards both rents may be provided for up to 12 assessment periods, providing there is an intention to return to the original property.

Housing costs for claimants aged between 18 and under 22 are not normally paid for those within all work related requirements. However, exemptions are made for those fleeing violence, see the exempt table in 18 to 21 year olds and housing costs

A crime reference number supplied by the police or a signed statement from the local council or other organisation providing support is required as evidence.

### **Large families**

Multiple homes can be treated as a single home, where the claimant and Benefit Unit are housed in two homes because of the size of the family. Evidence in the form of a letter from the local authority is needed. There is no limit of the number of assessment periods over which help is provided.

### **Moving from hospital or a care home**

If a Benefit Unit has no housing costs due to being in hospital or care home accommodation and is unable to move into new accommodation where rent is payable. Costs may be met for one assessment period once the claimant has taken up residence of the new home.

This only applies where a Benefit Unit includes a person receiving a benefit paid on account of a disability and necessary adaptations delay the move or a liability arises while all adult members of the Benefit Unit are hospital in-patients or in residential care.

### **Other circumstances**

The Housing additional amount of Universal Credit can be paid where someone is not able to occupy their home because of essential repairs but will only cover either the housing costs of the other accommodation or the accommodation which they normally occupy as their home but not both.

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