

How Budgeting Loans work

A Budgeting Loan can help pay for:

- furniture or household items (for example, washing machines or other 'white goods')
- clothes or footwear
- rent in advance
- costs linked to moving house
- maintenance, improvements or security for your home
- travelling costs within the UK
- costs linked to getting a new job
- maternity costs
- funeral costs
- repaying hire purchase loans
- repaying loans taken for the above items

You are only eligible for a Budgeting Loan if you've been on certain benefits for 6 months

Check if you're eligible

To get a Budgeting Loan you must have been getting one of these benefits for the past 6 months:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit

You can't get a Budgeting Loan if:

- you're involved in industrial action (for example, a strike, walkout or lockout)
- you owe more than £1,500 in total for Crisis Loans and Budgeting Loans

If you get Universal Credit

You can apply for a Budgeting Advance from [your local Jobcentre Plus](#) instead if you get Universal Credit.

What you could get

The lowest amount you can borrow is £100. You could get up to:

- £348 if you're single
- £464 if you have a partner
- £812 if you or your partner claim Child Benefit

How much you could get depends on whether you:

- can pay the loan back
- have savings of more than £1,000 (£2,000 if you or your partner are 63 or over)
- are paying back an existing Budgeting Loan or Crisis Loan

Paying back the loan

A Budgeting Loan is interest free so you only pay back what you borrow.

The repayments will be taken automatically from your benefits. The amounts you repay are based on how much benefit you get and what you can afford.

You normally have to repay the loan within 2 years (104 weeks). If you stop getting benefits, you'll need to arrange another way to repay.

Apply

<https://www.apply-budgeting-loan.service.gov.uk/steps/eligibility-sf-debt>

If you apply online, you'll be told whether you've been offered a loan within 15 working days. If you accept the loan offer, you'll then receive the money within 5 working days.

Other ways to apply

You can [print and fill in form SF500](#). It can take up to 19 working days for your application to be processed.

You can also:

- pick up the form from [your nearest Jobcentre Plus](#)
- phone the Social Fund and ask for a form to be posted to you - allow 5 working days for the form to arrive

Social Fund

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Telephone: 0345 603 6967

We cannot be held responsible for the level of service provided by the organisations included in this publication.

All details correct at time of publication, if you find that this info is inaccurate please call us.

in Green Street Depot
Green Street
Kidderminster
DY10 1HA

Helpline & Appointments: 0845 200 1072
Business / Office Line: 01562 60241
Fax: 01562 229083
Email: info@nwdial.org.uk
Website: www.nwdial.org.uk

