

BENEFIT CAP

What is the benefit cap?

This is a limit to the total amount of benefit that an out of work household can claim – this includes housing benefit. If your benefits are above this limit, your housing benefit or Universal Credit will be reduced by the amount exceeding the cap. This will mean that you need to make up the difference in your rent from your other benefits.

How much is the cap?

The amounts are as follows:

- A maximum of £384.62 a week for a couple (with or without children)
- A maximum of £384.62 a week for a lone parent with children living with them
- A maximum of £257.69 a week for a single adult living alone

Which benefits are included?

- Bereavement Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Employment and support allowance (ESA) except those in the support group
- Guardians Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Maternity Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance

- Universal Credit
- Widowed Parent's Allowance
- Widow's Benefit

The cap does not include one-off payments, non-cash benefits and passported benefits, such as free school meals, nor does it include Council Tax Support.

Are there any exemptions from the cap?

The cap does not apply if you receive any of the following benefits within your benefit household:

- Working Tax Credit
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – including payments for children
- Attendance Allowance
- Employment & Support Allowance if paid with the support component
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit as part of a war disablement pension or compensation scheme
- War Widower's Pension
- Carer's Allowance (new exemption from November 2017)

If you lose your job (through no fault of your own) after a period of 12 months continuous work, the cap will not applied for a period of 9 months.

Southdown is a leading provider of care, support and housing services for vulnerable people across Sussex

www.southdown.org

