

Shropshire can UC?

Working age? Then you need to know about Universal Credit, it's coming in 2018.

Starting in 2018 anyone having to make a new claim for Income Support, the income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit or tax credits may need to claim **Universal Credit** (UC). You should still claim any contribution-based benefits.

Universal Credit includes the money to pay your rent. It won't come separately from your council, and you will need to pay your landlord.

When you claim, the first payment of UC is made after 5 weeks.

Keep your tenancy safe, follow these hints and tips:–

Have your rent agreement with you when you go to your new claim interview. If you don't, your money won't include help with rent.

If you rent from a housing association talk to them: they will help you to get ready for Universal Credit.

Make rent a priority: set a budget, put your rent money on one side. Can you pay a bit of extra rent NOW to get into credit? Can you set up a separate account for rent? Find out more about 'Jam Jar' accounts from a credit union.

Get help if you get in arrears; Talk to your landlord, can you come to some agreement?
Get help with debt from Citizen's Advice or by calling the National Debtline on 0800 808 4000.

Jobcentre Plus might help: You can get an advance of benefit when you claim and pay it back from benefits later: don't forget to pay your rent from it. They might be able to pay your landlord directly as temporary help.

Can you get a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)? DHPs can't help everyone, but if you don't get full help with your rent then you may qualify. Shropshire Council deal with these.
Call 0345 678 9078.

If you want to know more about Universal Credit: check out the information on the Money Advice Website at: <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/universal-credit-an-introduction> or you could phone the Universal Credit helpline on 0800 328 5644 or 0800 328 9344.

Your library has computers and they have a list of other places to get online.

If this was useful – pass it on!