

# 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!**