

Winter Fuel Allowance

Everyone aged over 60 should receive a yearly Winter Fuel Allowance from the Government. People should usually claim in the first year they become eligible. The allowance is then paid automatically every year and for winter 2011/12 it will be £200 - £300 per household depending on circumstances. See www.direct.gov.uk for more details.

For further information, contact the **Winter Fuel Allowance helpline** on **08459 15 15 15**.

Cold Weather Payments

Cold Weather Payments of £25 are issued to those meeting the eligibility criteria when the average temperature at the closest weather station falls below 0°C for seven consecutive days (during the period 1 November to 31 March).

The payment is made automatically to people receiving Pension Credit or Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance and with one of the following:

- A pensioner premium, higher pensioner premium or enhanced pensioner premium
- A disability premium, enhanced disability premium or severe disability premium
- A disabled child premium
- Child Tax Credit that includes a disability or severe disability element
- A family with a child who is under five

Many people are not claiming all the benefits that they could. Cold Weather Payments (which don't affect entitlement to any other benefits) will only be made to people claiming one of the qualifying benefits.

For further information contact **Jobcentre Plus** free on **0800 055 6688**.



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