

If you're aged 18+

You don't need to be registered with Youth and Connexions to claim benefits. But we can still help you look for work or training.

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

You may be able to claim Jobseeker's Allowance if you are 18 or over and unemployed. You must also be:

- ▶ Capable of work
- ▶ Available for work, and
- ▶ Actively seeking work.

When you go to claim JSA you will have to complete a **Jobseeker's Agreement**. This will include details of:

- ▶ Your availability for work.
- ▶ The kind of work you're looking for.
- ▶ What you will do to look for work and improve your chances of finding work.
- ▶ How Jobcentre Plus aims to help you.

If you receive JSA you may also get help with health costs (for example, free prescriptions, free NHS dental treatment and free eye tests).

How to apply

Telephone **0800 0556688** to arrange an appointment with your local Jobcentre Plus office (do not contact your local office direct). Remember to bring **everything** you are asked to bring with you to the appointment – it will delay your claim if you don't.

Find your nearest office in your local phone book, or visit www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Housing and Council Tax Benefit

If you're not living with your parents you may be able to claim Housing Benefit to help pay your rent if your income and savings are below a certain level.

You cannot get Housing Benefit if you're living with your parents or other close relatives and paying rent to them.

You may also be able to claim Council Tax Benefit to help pay your Council Tax.

How to apply

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit are provided by the district/borough council for your area. Find their details in your local phone book or visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/Housing/HousingBenefits

How benefits will be paid

When you start receiving benefits, the government normally transfers the money straight into your:

- ▶ Bank or building society account
- ▶ Post Office Card Account, or
- ▶ National Savings Easy Access Savings Account.

But some payments are treated differently. For example, Housing Benefit can be paid directly to your landlord.

Opening a bank account

Speak to family and friends – ask which bank they would recommend, and why. To open an account you will need to provide two forms of identification (ID):

- ▶ **one to prove your name**, such as a passport, medical card or birth certificate.
- ▶ **one to prove your address**, a different document with your address (they do not accept mobile phone bills).

The easiest and cheapest form of ID is a medical card, issued from Suffolk Health...and it's free. Call Patient Services on 01473 329000 to find out how!

www.thesource.me.uk

by young people, for young people

Other benefits

The benefits you may be able to claim will depend on your individual circumstances. To find out more speak to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Jobcentre Plus or one of our advisers for more information.

Contact us

You can always visit our drop-in centres, call us on Freephone **0800 085 4448** or email youthandconnexions@suffolk.gov.uk

It's all about services for young people!

Youth and Connexions is part of the Youth Offer for young people in Suffolk. Find out more at www.thesource.me.uk/suffolkyouthoffer

إذا كنت شاباً تعيش في مقاطعة سافولك و تريد ترجمة لبعض أو كل المطبوعات فالرجاء الإتصال بالرقم 01473 260180

আপনি যদি তরুণ বয়সের একজন ব্যক্তি সাফোকে থাকেন ও এই লিফলেটের সবগুলি বা কিছু অনুবাদের আকারে পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 01473 260180 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

如果你是居于修福郡的年青人而又希望得到全部或部份这些印刷品的翻译本, 请致电 01473 260180

Se você é um(a) jovem que vive em Suffolk e gostaria de obter este impresso traduzido (ou parte dele), por favour ligue para 01473 260180.

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format, please call 01473 260180.

connexions

Benefits for young people seeking work



If you want to look at any of the websites listed in this leaflet, don't forget that Internet access is free in Suffolk libraries – and they are open on Sundays too!

BENEFITS

OK, you're looking for work, but you probably want to know if there's any money or financial help available until you find a job. The good news is that there **may** be some benefits available to help you while you are looking for work.

But although the benefit system has been set up to try and help you, it can seem very confusing at times. And we're not going to pretend that it's easy to get everything you're entitled to.

Plus, what you think you should get and what you actually get can be quite different. That's why it's important to get expert help when making a claim.

Even after you get everything you're entitled to, you may find there's not much money to go round because benefit levels tend to be quite low.

But don't worry... Youth and Connexions advisers can help you understand the benefit system and tell you more about the benefits you may be able to claim. They can't decide whether you can get benefits, but they can tell you which benefits you could apply for and how to apply.

If you think you may be entitled to benefits, don't hang about. **Speak to an adviser and make a claim as soon as possible – you could lose benefit if you don't.**

Your age makes a big difference to the benefits that you may be able to claim, as well as the way that you claim. **This leaflet is broken down into information for people aged 16 – 17 (found in the blue section) and information for people aged 18+ (found in the yellow section).**

The first thing you need to do is **register with Youth and Connexions as soon as possible.** As a general rule, you will not be able to claim benefits unless you are registered with Youth and Connexions.

To register with Youth and Connexions, call Freephone **0800 085 4448.**

How to apply

For more information and to apply, contact a Connexions adviser.

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)

It's worth saying straight away that **young people aged 16 - 17 cannot normally claim Jobseeker's Allowance.** You will only be able to claim Jobseeker's Allowance in exceptional circumstances. For example:

- ▶ If you're forced to live away from your parents.
- ▶ You'll suffer severe hardship if you don't get JSA.
- ▶ You're part of a couple responsible for a child.
- ▶ Your family is in hardship and are not able to claim benefits for you.

When you go to claim JSA you will have to complete a **Jobseeker's Agreement.** This will cover training issues as well as work, as you will be required to actively seek both. It will also list what you will do to look for work and training, which you will have agreed with Youth and Connexions.

If you receive JSA you may also get help with health costs (for example, free prescriptions, free NHS dental treatment and free eye tests).

How to apply

To find out if you can claim Jobseeker's Allowance contact your local Youth and Connexions centre (you cannot make a claim unless you are registered for work and training at your local Youth and Connexions centre).

We will give you a form to complete, and you will also need to arrange an interview appointment at Jobcentre Plus.

Remember to bring **everything** you are asked to bring with you to the appointment – it will delay your claim if you don't.

If you need it, we can also provide you with support in making your claim (such as going with you to your interview with Jobcentre Plus).

You must make sure that you attend all your appointments arranged with Jobcentre Plus, as well as seeing your Youth and Connexions adviser every two weeks - otherwise you could lose money!

And don't forget - after you have made your claim for JSA, we will help you to find a job or training place.

Hardship Payments

If you are not living at home, or you are in danger of being thrown out of home, you may be entitled to Hardship Payments.

How to apply

For more information and to apply, contact a Youth and Connexions adviser.

BENEFITS

Local Housing Allowance

If you're not living with your parents you may also be able to claim Housing Benefit to help pay your rent.

You cannot get Local Housing Allowance if you're living with your parents or other close relatives and paying rent to them.

How to apply

Local Housing Allowance is provided by the district/borough council for your area. However, it is a complicated process so we recommend that you speak to a Connexions adviser first.

Child Benefit Extension

This benefit won't be paid to you directly, but your parents/guardians will probably want to know that they can apply for Child Benefit Extension while you're looking for work or training.

- ▶ It can be paid from the Monday following the end of your full-time education or training.
- ▶ It can be paid for a maximum of 20 weeks.

How to apply

Your parents/guardians can apply by completing a Child Benefit Extension Application Form which they can get from a main Post Office. If they are re-claiming Child Benefit they will also be able to re-claim Tax Credits (but you must be registered with Connexions).

Information about how benefits will be paid and how to open a bank account can be found further on in this leaflet.