

## Changes to your housing benefit

	<p>The government wants to save money. They are therefore making changes to benefits. This means that you may get fewer benefits in the future.</p> <p>A benefit is money to help you pay for things.</p>
	<p>You can get benefits to help you pay for your home. This is called housing benefit.</p>
	<p>If you rent a home from someone who is not a local authority or a housing association, there will be some new rules to tell you how much you can get. This might mean you get less money than before.</p>
	<p>1) Your housing benefit may be paid to your landlord directly rather than yourself.</p>



2) The most housing benefit you can get if you have

- a) 1 bedroom - £250 per week.
- b) 2 bedrooms - £290 per week
- c) 3 bedrooms - £340 per week
- d) 4 bedrooms - £400 per week

If you have more than 4 bedrooms you still only get £400 per week.



3) From 1 April 2011, you will get less housing benefit, even if you still have to pay the same rent.

If your housing benefit is not enough to pay for your rent in the future, you will have to try to find a new home. But you may have 9 months to do this.



4) There are also some good news. If you need someone to care for you during the night, you might be able to get more housing benefit to pay for a room for them to stay.



If you are unsure or worried about some of the changes and want to find out more, call Mencap's helpline on 0808 808 1111. They will be able to help you.



Mencap does not like some of the changes to housing benefit.

Mencap will make sure that the government knows what this means for people with a learning disability.

If you have problems paying for your rent, please tell us- [campaigns@mencap.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mencap.org.uk)