



S O C I A L
S E C U R I T Y
A G E N C Y

Income Support

Income Support is a Social Security benefit for people whose income is below a certain level. It is normally paid to people aged 18 and below the age at which they can get Pension Credit.

To get Income Support, you must be habitually resident in Northern Ireland and not be required to be available for work because, for instance, you are

- a lone parent
- getting Carer's Allowance for looking after someone

Income Support can be paid to top up other benefits, or earnings from part-time work, or if you have no money coming in at all.

Entitlement to Income Support does not depend on National Insurance contributions.

You could get some help with housing costs such as mortgage or home loan interest payments, ground rent and certain service charges.

Entitlement and the amount payable will vary for each individual person depending on their circumstances.

You will normally receive help with rent or rates or both if you are entitled to Income Support. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Land & Property Services Agency can advise on this.

You cannot normally get Income Support if

- you are working for 16 hours or more a week, or if your partner (if you have one) is working for 24 hours or more a week
- you have savings of over £16000.00 (if you and your partner are below the age at which you can get Pension Credit)
- you have savings of over £16000.00 (if your partner has reached the age at which they can get Pension Credit)
- you have savings of over £16000.00 (if you are a permanent resident in a care home)

To find out more about Income Support, contact your local Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office, Advice Centre, Community Benefits Office or the Benefit Shop, Royal Avenue, Belfast.

These notes give general information only and are not a complete statement of the law.