



## DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT



**Discretionary Housing Payment** is for those who need extra help with their rent when Housing Benefit, Local Housing Allowance, Universal Credit does not cover the full amount.

If you are **suffering hardship or your tenancy is at risk**, you may be able to get a DHP to help.

To get a Discretionary Housing Payment **you must** be:

- receiving Housing Benefit, Local Housing Allowance, Universal Credit
- reside in Birmingham and be claiming from Birmingham City Council
- be able to demonstrate a financial need.

In certain circumstances DHP may be able to cover a rent deposit, rent in advance or removal expenses. To be eligible for this, the above criteria must be met along with a valid reason to move. The property must be affordable and the deposit amount reasonable.

A DHP may be paid if:

- someone in the household has needs associated with disability or ill health
  - the accommodation has been adapted because of disability
  - someone in the household has a relevant medical need
  - it is not possible or practical for someone to look for alternative accommodation
- (This list is not exhaustive)

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## **DHP will not pay for:**

-water, meals, fuel, shortfall in housing benefits due to an overpayment being recovered, rent that is clearly excessive, increase in rent due to outstanding rent arrears, shortfall due to certain sanctions and reductions in benefit.

If you continue to experience extreme financial difficulty there is a **council tax support discretionary hardship payment scheme** to further help claimants who are struggling to pay their council tax bill. You can apply using an online form at Birmingham City Council, "**Housing and Council Tax discretionary payments**".

**Do not suffer in silence, we are here to help.**

If you would like help with filling in the applications, please contact us to arrange an appointment with the NEST Team.

Contact us at:

**0121 384 2333**

**[advice@new-heights.org.uk](mailto:advice@new-heights.org.uk)**

