



An Introduction to the APPLYING FOR: Series

AN OVERVIEW OF BENEFITS TO WHICH YOU MAY BE ENTITLED

*A series of notes prepared by
Support & Advocacy for MS, CIC
to assist with applications for
national and local government concessions,
support and procedures*



THE **APPLYING FOR:** SERIES

WHAT IS THE **APPLYING FOR: SERIES?**

Benefits forms are notoriously difficult to complete successfully! This leaflet is an introduction to the series published by Support & Advocacy for MS, CIC (SAMS) which aims to guide applicants through the process and to avoid the most obvious pitfalls and minefields.

The leaflets are targeting not only anyone who wants to become familiar with the application process but also those who may wish to complete the form themselves.

Anyone in this latter group is, of course, welcome to contact SAMS for help if necessary. Contact information is on the back of this leaflet.

A WORD OF WARNING:

By all means get help from others to complete application forms. At the end of the day, however, please remember that using more than one advocate a time causes confusion, not confirmation!

DISABILITY- and AGE-RELATED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

1. DISABILITY- and AGE-RELATED BENEFITS

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE (AA)

Attendance Allowance is for claimants over State Pension Age who have a disability severe enough that they need aids or assistance to complete various tasks.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA) (Children)

Disability Living Allowance is to help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16 and whose needs are greater than a child of the same age who does not have a disability.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA) (Adults)

DLA for adults is being replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for disabled people between 16 and State Pension age.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT (UC)

Universal Credit is paid to help with living costs to people on a low income, out of work or unable to work because of a long-term ill-health condition or disability.

NEW-STYLE EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)

Employment and Support Allowance provides money to help with living costs to people unable to work because of a disability or health condition and/or support to get back into work if this is possible. This is gradually being replaced by Universal Credit – except for those who have continued to pay National Insurance contributions.

CARER'S ALLOWANCE (CA)

Carer's Allowance is paid to the carer for helping someone because of ill-health or disability – as long as the recipient of such care has been awarded at least Standard Rate PIP or the Middle Rate Care component of DLA.

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

Personal Independence Payment is a benefit paid to people between the age of 16 and State Pension Age to help with some of the extra costs that are incurred by people who have a long-term ill-health condition or disability.

2. OTHER DISABILITY- and AGE-RELATED SUPPORT

Access to Work

Access to Work is a publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help more disabled people start or stay in work. It may include travelling to and from work.

Blue Badge Scheme

The Blue Badge scheme helps people to park closer to their destination if they are disabled.

Council Tax Disabled Band Reduction

Local councils may reduce a Council Tax bill by one band if a disabled person needs extra room or space because of their disability.

Council Tax Reduction or Support

A Council Tax reduction can be claimed by people on low income or no income at all and with savings below £16,000. It is means-tested.

Disabled Facilities Grant

A Disabled Facilities Grant is money towards the costs of home adaptations to enable you to continue living there by improving access to rooms and facilities and making heating and lighting easier to control. It is means-tested.

Housing Benefit

Housing Benefit helps people who are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits to pay their rent. It is means-tested.

NB Housing Benefit is effectively part of Universal Credit.

Income Support

Income Support is to help people on a low income to cover their costs. It is means-tested.

Jobseekers Allowance

Jobseekers Allowance provides financial support to help people looking for work. It is means-tested unless the claimant has paid sufficient National Insurance contributions.

Motability Scheme

The Motability Scheme enables people to become mobile by exchanging their PIP or DLA mobility allowance to lease a new car, Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV), scooter or powered wheelchair.

Public Transport Concessions

Concessions offered by bus, coach, train and underground companies provide older and disabled people with improved access to services and facilities.

VAT Relief on Products and Services

VAT is not charged on products designed or adapted for their own personal or domestic use to people who are disabled or have a long-term illness. This includes the installation, repair and maintenance of such products.

Vehicle Tax Exemption

A vehicle used by a disabled person with higher levels of mobility benefit is exempt from vehicle tax.



Vehicle Tax Reduction

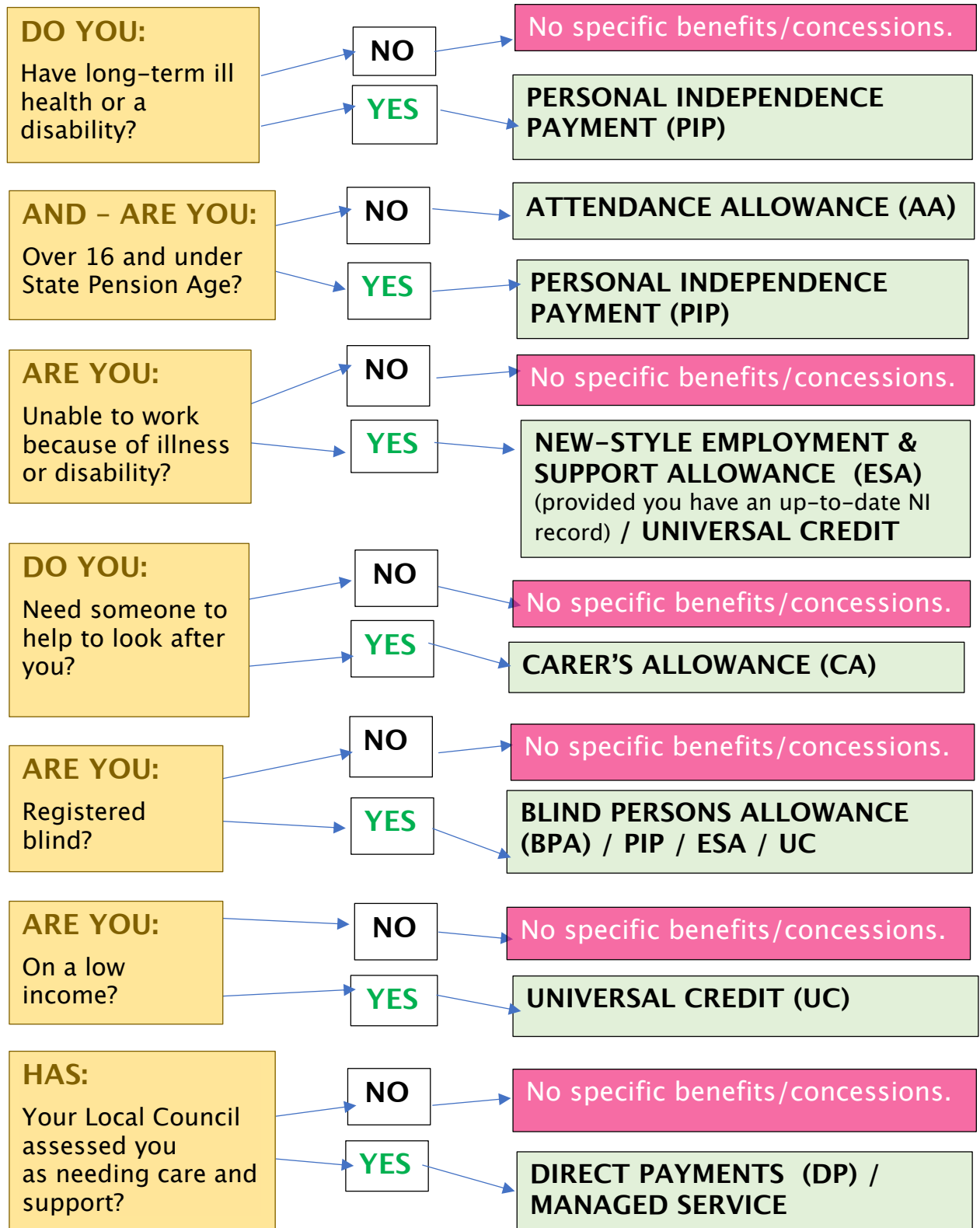
A vehicle used by a disabled person with lower levels of mobility benefit can claim a reduction in vehicle tax.

Working Tax Credit

A claim for Working Tax Credit can now only be made by someone who has been awarded the Severe Disability Premium – or is entitled to it or was entitled to in the last month and is still eligible for it.

NB Working Tax Credit is part of Universal Credit for most people.

BENEFITS TO WHICH YOU MAY BE ENTITLED BECAUSE OF ILL-HEALTH OR DISABILITY - a simplistic view



FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE IF YOU HAVE BEEN AWARDED DISABILITY-RELATED BENEFIT(S)

	<i>Do you have PIP Enhanced Rate or DLA Higher Rate Mobility?</i>	<i>Do you have PIP Standard Rate?</i>	<i>Are you on a low income?</i>	<i>Has your local council assessed you as needing care and support?</i>
Blue Badge Scheme	DLA ✓ Automatic for claimants with 8 points or more under Moving Around element of PIP Mobility	Automatic for claimants with 8 points or more under Moving Around element of PIP Mobility		
Council Tax reduction			Maybe	
Direct payments for care and support				✓
Housing Benefit			Maybe	
Income Support			Maybe	
Motability Scheme	✓			
Public transport concessions	✓	✓		
Vehicle Tax exemption	✓			
Vehicle Tax reduction		50%		



TITLES IN THE **APPLYING FOR: SERIES**

Published May 2021:

AN OVERVIEW OF BENEFITS TO WHICH YOU MAY BE ENTITLED
ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE (AA)
CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL
PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

To be published later in 2021:

CARER'S ALLOWANCE (CA)
EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE (ESA)
SOCIAL SERVICES SUPPORT
UNIVERSAL CREDIT (UC)

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