

Are you receiving Housing Benefit and unable to meet a shortfall?  
**If so, you may be entitled to a Discretionary Housing Payment.**

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) are available to people who are entitled to (awarded) Housing Benefit (HB) or Universal Credit that includes the housing costs element for rental liability and appear to the council to need some more help with their housing costs (rent)

### **When would we consider paying a DHP?**

Where there is a shortfall between the eligible rent and the HB entitlement or Universal Credit award that includes the housing costs element due to

- Local Housing Allowance restriction / Rent Officer restriction
- Income used in the calculation
- A non-dependant deduction
- Room restriction for registered social landlord tenants
- The benefit cap

As a DHP is discretionary, you must not assume that we will give it to you even if you meet any of the reasons above.

### **When can you not have them?**

We cannot give DHPs towards:

- Ineligible service charges of any type
- Increases in rent due to rent arrears
- Any reductions or suspension of benefits, HB or Universal Credit
- Mortgage interest payments

### **How long will it be given for?**

We will decide the length of time for which a DHP will be awarded based on the circumstances of your case. It is important to understand that the DHP scheme should be seen as short term assistance.

### **What if your circumstances change after we have awarded you a DHP?**

You should tell us immediately if your circumstances change. You may have to pay money back that you are not entitled to if you don't. You could also lose out on any benefit due to you when you don't report changes.



### **How do I claim?**

You can request application form by contacting our call centre on: 01454 86 8002. You can also pick one up from our One Stop Shops in Yate, Kingswood, Patchway or Thornbury.