

Working families and Working Tax Credit

If you are a couple with at least one child and at least one of you is working, you may be entitled to Working Tax Credit (WTC). But between you, you must normally be working **24 hours** or more a week – with at least one working 16 hours a week. **However, there are exceptions to this rule.** This factsheet explains these exceptions, the general rules for this benefit and where you can get further help and information. It does not include any Coronavirus easements that are explained on www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfarerights if applicable.

Note, Universal Credit (UC) is replacing benefits like WTC. You cannot normally make a new claim for WTC. See www.newcastle.gov.uk/universalcredit.

The 24-hour rule does not apply if:

One of you works 16 or more hours a week and you or your partner is:

- Aged 60 and over, or
- Classed as disabled (which means being entitled to the WTC ‘disability element’ due to being on a benefit like Employment and Support Allowance or Personal Independence Payment)

Or, if you (the claimant) works 16 or more hours a week and your partner is:

- Classed as ‘incapacitated’ which means they’re ill or disabled and get certain benefits, or
- In hospital, or
- In prison, or
- Entitled to Carer’s Allowance - or have an ‘underlying entitlement’ to it, explained at: www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/what-youll-get

For fuller rules on Working Tax Credit see below and <https://www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit/eligibility>

How much Tax Credits can you get?

Here is a rough guide of how much Tax Credits you may get if you are an entitled couple with one child:

- earning £12,000 a year may get about £89 a week.
- earning £15,000 a year may get about £66 a week.

This includes Child Tax Credit. It is a general guide (it could be more!) and other benefits may be affected. People with children should also get Child Benefit and it is worth checking if there are other benefits that can help. It may be that Universal Credit is more generous overall. You should check with the Tax Credits Office or seek advice using the details below.

Working Tax Credit (WTC) rules

Here are the general rules for getting WTC if you are in one of the following circumstances:

- Single, working at least 16 hours a week and classed as disabled (as described above)
- A lone parent working at least 16 hours a week
- Aged 60 or over and working at least 16 hours a week
- A couple with children and working at least 24 hours a week, but see the exceptions described above
- Single, aged 25 or over and working at least 30 hours a week. Single people aged under 25 may only qualify under the first two bullet points above.

How much you get depends on your income and other circumstances.

Further help and information

- Get more information on Tax Credits, benefits and where to get advice in Newcastle on: www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfarerights
- Get more information on Tax Credits and a Tax Credits calculator from the Government: <https://www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit>, and the independent www.revenuebenefits.org.uk.
- Phone the Tax Credits Office: 0345 300 3900

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