

What To Do If You Have Become Unemployed...



There are a number of things that you should do if you have recently become unemployed and you want to make a claim for benefits or apply for Job Seekers Allowance / Universal Credit.

Some useful advice on what to do if you have become unemployed:

- **Register as Unemployed** – You will need to do this at your local [JobCentre Plus](#) if you want to claim for benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.
- **Register for other benefits:**
 - [Housing benefit](#)
This benefit is support to help pay your rent and is usually run by your local council. You may need to attend a separate meeting with them or provide evidence that you are unemployed/on a low income.
 - [Council tax benefit](#)
This benefit is usually applied for at the same time as your housing benefit and is paid by your local council.
 - [Child benefit](#)
This benefit isn't only open to unemployed people, it includes a huge range of circumstances for anyone with children under the age of 16 and it can really help if you're struggling to financially support your family.
- **Assess your Finances** – You will need to make sure that you can pay for important bills such as your rent and utilities. A budgeting assessment is a good way to track where your money is going each month. The [Money Advice Service](#) has excellent tools on how to budget and manage your money better.
- **Update Your CV** – Making sure your CV has your latest work experience is vital. Also include references from your most recent employer if possible. The [National Careers Service](#) has some great resources such as a skills assessment tool and CV builder.
- **Look for Jobs** – Use the internet to make sure you are proactively looking for work. There are many recruitment sites that will enable you to search for available jobs within your chosen industry. You should also register with [Universal Job Match](#) as this will support any claim for Job Seekers
- **Do Volunteer Work** – Volunteering can help your CV stand out for potential employers and will enable you to have a recent reference for other employers to contact. The [National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) website is a great place to start to look for volunteering opportunities.
- **Network** - Speaking with friends and previous co-workers can be a way to find any new opportunities.