

1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
2. Visas and immigration (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>)
3. Seek protection or asylum (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/asylum>)

# Asylum support

## 1. Overview

You may be able to get housing and money to support you and your family while you're waiting to find out if you'll be given asylum.

This also means your children will go to a free state school and you may get free healthcare from the National Health Service (NHS).

You can still apply for short-term support (<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/how-to-claim>) if you've been refused asylum and are preparing to leave the UK.

Call an asylum helpline (<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-helplines>) for free help with asylum support or short-term support.

## 2. What you'll get

You can ask for somewhere to live, a cash allowance or both as an asylum seeker.

### Housing

You'll be given somewhere to live if you need it. This could be in a flat, house, hostel or bed and breakfast.

You can't choose where you live. It's unlikely you'll get to live in London or south-east England.

### Cash support

You'll get £37.75 for each person in your household. This will help you pay for things you need like food, clothing and toiletries.

Your allowance will be loaded onto a debit card (ASPEN card) each week. You'll be able to use the card to get cash from a cash machine.

### If you've been refused asylum

You'll be given:

- somewhere to live

- £35.39 per person on a payment card for food, clothing and toiletries

You won't be given:

- the payment card if you don't take the offer of somewhere to live
- any money

## Extra money for mothers and young children

You'll get extra money to buy healthy food if you're pregnant or a mother of a child under 3. The amount you get will depend on your situation.

Your situation	Extra payment per week
Pregnant mother	£3
Baby under 1 year old	£5
Child aged 1 to 3	£3

## Maternity payment

You can apply for a one-off £300 maternity payment if your baby is due in 8 weeks or less, or if your baby is under 6 weeks old.

### If you've been refused asylum

You can apply for a one-off £250 maternity payment if your baby is due in 8 weeks or less or if your baby is under 6 weeks old.

### Applying for the maternity grant

You apply for the maternity grant in the same way whether you're still an asylum seeker or you've been refused asylum.

You'll need to request form MAT B1 from your doctor to apply for the payment. You can apply for the maternity payment at the same time you apply for asylum support.

If you get pregnant after you've applied for asylum support, you can apply to the support team (<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/further-information>) that dealt with your application for asylum support.

## Healthcare

You may get free National Health Service (NHS) healthcare, such as to see a doctor or get hospital treatment.

You'll also get:

- free prescriptions for medicine
- free dental care for your teeth
- free eyesight tests
- help paying for glasses

## Education

Your children must attend school if they are aged 5 to 17 (<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>). All state schools are free and your children may be able to get free school meals (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>).

## 3. Eligibility

You can apply for asylum support if you're homeless or don't have money to buy food.

### If you've been refused asylum

You can ask for the following if you're homeless, don't have any money to buy food and you can show that there's a reason why you can't leave the UK yet:

- short-term housing
- help with prescriptions for medicine, dental care for your teeth, eyesight tests and glasses
- a payment card for food and toiletries

You won't be given the payment card without the housing and you won't be given any cash.

## 4. How to claim

### Housing and cash support for asylum seekers

Apply using form ASF1 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-asylum-support-form-asf1>) to claim housing and cash support.

Send the form to the asylum support casework team.

#### Casework team

ASCorrespondence@migranthelpuk.org

Telephone: 0808 801 0503

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

Asylum Support Casework Team

PO Box 471

Dover

CT16 9FN

You might be able to apply for additional support if the general allowance won't cover your needs. You'll have to show that you can't meet your needs in any other way.

Read the guidance on additional support

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applications-for-additional-support>).

Fill in form ASF2 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-additional-asylum-support-form-asf2>) and contact the Asylum Support Application Service. The details are on the form.

Call an asylum helpline (<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-helplines>) for help with applications.

## If you're refused asylum

You must return to your country as soon as possible if you're refused asylum.

You can apply for short-term support using form ASF1

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-asylum-support-form-asf1>).

You'll need to complete a 'section 4(2)' medical declaration

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-42-medical-declaration>) if you have a specific medical issue.

You can also apply for additional help (section 4(2) support)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-section-4-extra-services-or-facilities>), for example:

- medical appointments
- getting your new baby's birth certificate
- maternity payments

Read the guidance on section 4(2) support

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-section-42-policy>).

Send all forms to the asylum support casework team by email or post.

### Casework team

ASCorrespondence@migranthelpuk.org

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## Education for children

Contact your local council if you have children and want to:

- apply for a primary school place (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-primary-school-place>)
- apply for a secondary school place (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-secondary-school-place>)

## Healthcare

Contact the free National Health Service (NHS) 111 service for help and advice with health problems when it's not an emergency.

### NHS 111

(<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSServices/Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/NHS-111.aspx>)

Telephone: 111

Textphone: 18001 111

Phone NHS Help With Health Costs for help with prescriptions for medicine, dental care, eyesight tests and buying glasses.

### NHS Help With Health Costs

Telephone: 0300 330 1343

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)

## Help and advice

Call one of the asylum helplines (<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-helplines>) to get free help with filling in forms.

You can get more information about asylum support from the customer contact centre. Email for an ARC appointment.

### Asylum support customer contact centre

[ASCorrespondence@migranthelpuk.org](mailto:ASCorrespondence@migranthelpuk.org)

Telephone: 0808 801 0503

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm

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## 5. Further information

### Appeal

You can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Asylum Support) (<https://www.gov.uk/appeal-first-tier-asylum-support-tribunal>) if:

- you've applied for asylum support and been turned down
- you were claiming asylum support and it's been stopped

### Contact asylum support

You can contact Migrant Help if your application for support has been refused or you have questions about your appeal against the decision.

**Migrant Help**

ascorrespondence@migranthelpuk.org

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm

Telephone: 0808 801 0503

Find out about call charges (<https://www.gov.uk/call-charges>)