

Universal Credit has arrived

What must I do?



Claim online at www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit

Universal credit payments include any housing costs you are entitled to. It's not just for food and living expenses, you now have to pay your rent to ACHA. There is an option on your online claim to have your housing costs paid directly to ACHA.



And what happens if I choose to have my Universal Credit paid to ACHA?

If you choose to have your housing costs paid directly to ACHA it can take **up to five weeks** after the money is taken from your UC payment before it is paid to ACHA. You should maintain regular contact with your local office to prevent further action for rent arrears.

- **Contact your Local Office as soon as possible to discuss your choices and any rent arrears with them. They will be able to offer you advice and assistance.**
- **If you need budgeting or money advice you can get help from the Welfare Rights Officers within ACHA by calling 0800 028 2755**