

SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

“So with old age is wisdom, and with length of days understanding.”
Job 12:12

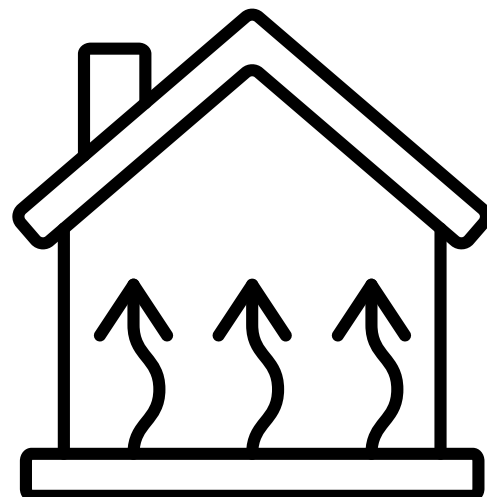
Pope Francis' message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2024, reminds us that God never abandons his children, never. He chose the theme: “Do not cast me off in my old age”

An estimated 880,000 low-income pensioner households eligible for pension credit currently fail to claim it and a deadline is approaching. The government says it is worth an average of £3,900 a year, but it is also a gateway to other financial support such as winter fuel payments.

Recent changes have been made which may change the number of people who receive the winter fuel payment. You may be eligible if you or your partner get certain benefits. If you are eligible for pension credit or other benefits, it could make a big difference this winter.

Pensioners on low incomes are encouraged to check if they could be eligible for pension credit. On top of the benefit, it is another way to support with housing costs, council tax, the TV licence, and the winter fuel payment worth up to £300.

People are encouraged to apply by 21 December. That is the final date for making a backdated claim for pension credit.



About 1.4 million pensioners already receive pension credit but many people incorrectly believe they are not entitled, have been ruled out owing to savings, or say they do not like to accept what they regard as handouts.

Pension Credit gives extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Pension Credit can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges. Pension Credit is separate from your State Pension. You can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your own home.

Check eligibility for pension credit online through

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>. You can also find out how to claim via phone on weekdays - **0800 99 1234**.

You can get help from Age UK via their confidential advice line on 0800 678 1602 open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year or online www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/pension-credit/

Other sources of support about benefit entitlements include

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>;

<https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>

If you would like more signposting information, please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk. Please note that Caritas Plymouth cannot provide financial advice and this note is for general signposting only. The information was correct at the date of publication but please check through the organisations above as policy and rules can change.

September 2024

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