

Asylum support

While you go through the asylum claim process, you can apply for asylum support from the Home Office if you have no accommodation or can't afford basic living expenses.

What is asylum support

If you need a place to live, the Home Office should provide accommodation for you and your family. Housing is usually outside of London or the South East of England.

The Home Office can provide a weekly allowance to pay for essentials such as food and clothes.

Who can apply for asylum support

You can apply for asylum support if you are:

- 18 years of age or older
- waiting for a decision on your asylum claim
- in need of help to get somewhere to live, or with your living costs

How to apply for support

You can apply for support when you make your asylum application, or at any time before your claim for asylum is decided. Use [form ASF1](#).

Help from social services

If you're under 18, and have no family in the UK, social services should provide you with accommodation, food, and clothing. Call the [Refugee Council's Children's Advice Project](#) on 020 7346 1134 for help with your asylum application.

Social services should give you support if you have a significant disability or illness.

Factsheet

If you already have accommodation or money

If you have somewhere to stay but no money, you can apply to the Home Office for help with living costs. They won't help with rent or utility bills.

If you have money or property you could sell, you might not get asylum support. The Home Office will consider any assets that you have. If you have assets that you can't sell you should explain this.

How support can end

Support stops after 28 days if you are given refugee status or leave to remain in the UK. You can apply to a local council for help if you are at risk of becoming homeless.

Support can stop if your claim for asylum is refused and there's no pending appeal.

You might get support if your asylum claim has been refused and you are waiting to leave the UK or cannot travel because you are ill.

Get advice

Call the [Asylum Support Application helpline](#) on 0808 801 0503 for advice.

You can get further advice from england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice, a local Shelter advice service or local Citizens Advice.

If you have nowhere to sleep tonight, are at risk of harm or losing your home within the next 2 months, call Shelter Helpline on 0808 800 4444 for advice and information on your options. Calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks.

