

Benefits

Are you getting all the benefits you may be entitled to? We find that many people are reluctant to ask for these for reasons that we understand, but a little extra money is always useful and remember these benefits come from YOUR taxes and National Insurance contributions over the years! If you would like more information about how to apply just ring us at ESCSA on 01883 745057. We are very happy to visit you to explain things and assist with completing the forms.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

DLA is paid to people under 65 who need help with personal care or with mobility issues.

Weekly rates for DLA

Care Component;		Mobility Component	
Higher Rate	£71.40	Higher Rate	£49.85
Middle Rate	£47.80	Lower Rate	£18.95
Lower Rate	£18.95		

The mobility component of DLA is paid at the Higher Rate to people who are unable to walk or have severe pain or great difficulty walking, the Lower Rate is for people who may need someone with them when they walk for example because they are confused or unsteady.

Attendance Allowance (AA)

This is essentially the same benefit as DLA but paid to people over 65 who need help with personal care. The other difference is there is no mobility component AA - which many people feel is unfair! The Higher Rate could also be called the "night rate" as it is only paid when people need help at night as well as during the day.

Weekly rates for AA

Higher (night) Rate	£71.40
Lower Rate	£47.80

Personal care includes things like washing, dressing, getting to and using the toilet, but it also includes needing help with medication, communicating with other people, or needing someone for safety and re-assurance. It also covers people with dementia, memory loss or confusion not just people with physical problems.

Carers Allowance (CA)

This is paid to you as the carer - however the person you care for needs to be getting AA or at least the Middle Rate of DLA. Current rate is £53.90 and you can earn up to £100 a week and still qualify. If you receive a state pension you won't get the full CA, however if you are eligible for pension credit you may get the carers premium that is attached to this of £30.05 a week.