A Guide to Determine European Nationals' Eligibility for Housing and Homelessness Assistance from 1 January 2021

YES



The rules about eligibility for UK residents who are nationals of the European Union and of the wider European Economic Area (EEA) will change on 1 January 2021. Those who have EU settled status by that date retain the same rights to housing assistance that they had beforehand. But the position for those with EU pre-settled status, or who have not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, are more complex. The diagram here is a step-by-step guide to assessing eligibility in England. It is adapted from the flow chart in Annex B of the MHCLG's <u>official letter to local authorities</u> (pdf) on 19 November 2020. The rules shown here also apply in Wales by virtue of <u>regulation 26 of the EU Exit Regulations</u>. For more information and for an explanation of terms, go to the Brexit page of the CIH <u>housing rights website</u>.

From 1 January 2021, when determining the eligibility of an EEA citizen, and their family member, for an allocation of social housing or homelessness assistance, the local authority should consider the following:

Has the EEA citizen, and the family member, resided in the UK before the end of the Transition Period on 31 December 2020?



Has the EEA citizen, and/or their family member, applied for and been granted leave under the EU Settlement Scheme before the end of the Transition Period?



Important: They will have to ensure they apply to the EUSS before the deadline of 30 June 2021 to protect their rights to live in the UK and access social housing or homelessness assistance, as well as other benefits and services. These protections will apply until their applications to the EUSS are finally determined (provided these were made by 30 June 2021), including until the outcome of an appeal against a decision to refuse status under the EUSS.

They and their family members will be eligible, per <u>Regulation 4(2)</u> and <u>Regulation</u> <u>6(2)</u>. They will be ineligible as per <u>Regulation 4(1)</u> and <u>Regulation 6(1)</u> of the Eligibility Regulations. will be considered a person subject to immigration control and will not be eligible for an allocation of social housing or homelessness assistance. Late applications to the EUSS will be accepted where there are reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline.

To note: During the grace period (from 1 January to 30 June 2021), family members arriving in the UK with a family permit issued under the EUSS granting them limited leave to enter the UK by virtue of the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) Order 2000, to join their EEA sponsor, will be subject to the eligibility rules under Regulations <u>4</u> and <u>6</u>, provided their EEA sponsor can demonstrate they fall within the definition of the grace period cohort under <u>The</u> <u>Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020</u>. If their EEA sponsor has already secured pre-settled status under the EUSS, they will only be subject to the eligibility rules under Regulations <u>4</u> and <u>6</u> from the point they apply and are granted pre-settled status under the EUSS.

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Changes will be made to this chart as further information on the rules becomes available.

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