

Funding stream: DWP Household Support Fund

Name of grant: Household Support Grant

Grant Award: Total available for distribution £100,000 to be divided between successful applicants

Section 1 – Service Overview

DWP provided Local Authorities with funding under Household Support Fund to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children during the winter period. The grant funding is time limited and the grant needs to be spent by 31 March 2023.

In terms of type of support, the expectation is that the Household Support Fund should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills. It can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.

Ealing Council will be providing support to groups which have been identified as most in need of support through winter. These are:

- Families with children eligible for free school means where eligibility is based on low income
- Families with children under the age of 5 in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction
- Care leavers

These groups will be automatically issued with supermarket vouchers in October 22, December 22, February 23 and March 23 to support them with food and reduce pressure on household budgets to enable them to better meet the costs of energy and other essentials.

In November, the Council will also issue one of vouchers to Households on Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction and not in receipt of any DWP benefits or Tax Credits who may have missed out on cost-of-living payments from DWP.

The Council has also temporarily expanded its eligibility criteria for Local Welfare Assistance scheme and allocated additional funding to support other vulnerable residents who need additional support this winter. Under expanded eligibility criteria, the Council can now also support households who are in employment but on low income. Full qualifying criteria for LWA can be found under the link below:

[Qualifying criteria for local welfare assistance | Local welfare assistance | Ealing Council](#)

In addition to the above support, the Council wants to provide some of the Household Support Grant funding to fund a local voluntary and community groups to enable them to increase their capacity or to provide additional support to the residents as per grant funding criteria. In particular, the Council would like voluntary and community groups to provide support to individuals and households who have not been included in the groups already identified by the Council. This is to ensure that access to support is maximised and that a wide range of support is available to most vulnerable residents across the borough.

Voluntary and community sector will play a key contribution in providing direct support and in raising awareness of the support available through the Council. This funding stream will include:

provision of support with food, provision of support with energy and water, provision of support with essentials linked to energy and water and other wider essentials. Although grant conditions allow payments to be made towards housing costs, voluntary and community sector are not expected to provide payments towards housing costs. When such a need is identified, voluntary and community sector would be expected to refer an individual/household to the Council.

Section 2 – Service Delivery/Activities Sought

Applicants will need to demonstrate how the provision of their services will assist in providing support to vulnerable individual residents/households between November 2022 and 31 March 2023 with the following:

- Provision of support with food other than supermarket vouchers (whether in kind or cash or other)
- Provision of support with energy and water bills or any other form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders. The funding can also be used to support with water bills including for drinking, washing, cooking, and sanitary purposes and sewerage.
- Provision of support with essentials linked to energy and water. The funding can be used to provide support with essentials linked to energy and water (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, etc.), in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access food, energy and water.
- Provision of support with wider essentials. The funding can be used to support with wider essential needs not linked to energy and water. These may include, but are not limited to, support with other bills including broadband or phone bills, clothing, and essential transport-related costs, such as paying for fuel. This list is not exhaustive.

The applicants can provide support with one or more of the items as per list above.

Support is not restricted to vulnerable households in receipt of DWP benefits and awards can be made to any households in genuine need of support in winter, struggling to afford essentials. Organisations are allowed to use part of this funding towards their reasonable administrative costs. These can include for example:

- staff costs
- advertising and publicity to raise awareness of the scheme
- web page design
- printing application forms
- small IT changes, for example, to facilitate MI production

The admin costs should not exceed 20% of value of the grant applied for.

The successful provider will articulate the following:

- **The total amount of the grant they are applying for**
- Their approach to identifying vulnerable individuals/households who are in need of support with the essentials listed above
- Their approach to targeting hard to reach and diverse groups
- The anticipated number of households the organisation would support with this funding
- Average value of the support provided per individual award
- Frequency of the support provided – whether one off or periodic

- Their approach to the delivery of this support: in particular forms of support being distributed
- How the organisation will ensure that there is no duplication of provision of the support with what is already being provided by the Council as specified in section 1
- How they will monitor and record number of awards and expenditure
- Anticipated costs of administering the support

Section 3 – Specific Criteria

The council will assess:

- Total number of different VCS organisations providing overall support and the form of support provided
- Number of different VCS organisations providing support with food
- Number of different VCS organisations providing support with energy and water bills
- Number of different VCS organisations providing support essentials linked to energy and water
- Number of different VCS organisations providing support linked to wider essentials
- Estimated number of individual/households supported, form and frequency of the support
- The number of days and hours service will be operational

Section 4 – Monitoring and provision of information

The grant recipient will provide a monthly management information by 10th of each month reporting on spend for the previous month.

Final management information will be required to be provided by 10th April for the total spend up to 31 March 23.

The management information is required to be provided in the following format:

- Broken down by support provided to households with children, households with pensioners, households with disabled person and other including expenditure and volumes

Table 1:

		Table 3: Total Value of Awards Split by Household Composition				e) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d)
		a) Households with Children	b) Households with Pensioners	c) Households with a Disabled Person	d) Other households	
Row 1	Spend (£s)					£ -
Row 2	Volumes					-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped					-

- **Spend (£s)** - this is the amount paid/awarded to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. Organisations should either gather information or check existing records they hold or have access to, to establish whether the household includes a child (as defined above) and complete columns a and b accordingly.
- **Volumes** - this is the number of individual/separate payments made to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. If multiple awards are made to the same household throughout the period of the scheme each award should be counted separately. Where an award is made to a household with multiple children, it should be classed as a single award.

b) Broken down by type of expenditure

Table 2

		Table 4: Total Value of Awards Split by Category					
		a) Food	b) Energy and Water	c) Essentials linked to Energy and Water	d) Wider Essentials	e) Housing Costs	e) Total (a+b+c+d+e)
Row 1	Spend (£s)						
Row 2	Volumes						

- Table 2 relates to grant spend and the volume of awards made in relation to food, energy and water bills, essentials linked to energy and water bills, wider essentials
- **Spend (£s)** - this is the amount paid/awarded to vulnerable households in respect of each category.
- **Volumes** - this is the number of individual/separate payments made to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. If multiple awards are made to the same household throughout the period of the scheme each award should be counted separately.
- Table 1 and Table 2 ask for spend and award volumes to be recorded against two sets of criteria. Therefore, the details of each award need to be recorded twice once against one set of criteria and then a second time against the other criteria.
- Organisations are not expected to provide support with housing costs, and these should be disregarded from the returns.
- The organisations will also provide separate returns on administrative costs if incurred. The funding needs to be spent by 31 March 2023 and any unspent funds will have to be returned to the Council.