

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND LOCAL ELIGIBILITY FRAMEWORK

EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT AND BOROUGH COUNCILS

Introduction

On 23 March the government announced a further Household Support Fund to support those most in need. The grant will run from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 and East Sussex County Council has been allocated **£3,896,783.88**. The Department for Work and Pensions has set out how the scheme should be allocated. The criteria have changed slightly from previous funds, with a requirement for at least one third of the total funding to be spent on pensioners; and more emphasis on energy bills.

East Sussex County Council have allocated the Council funds to provide support to vulnerable households and cover the Council's administration costs. The scheme will close when the funds are spent or on 30 September 2022, whichever happens first.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be over the age of 18
- Resident in East Sussex (and resident in the LA to which they are applying)
- In receipt of one of the following means tested benefits –
 - Universal Credit
 - Housing Benefit
 - Pension Credit
 - Council Tax Reduction
 - Working Tax Credit
 - Income Support
 - Income Based Job-Seeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Scheme criteria

1. Energy and Water costs – Support will be provided for the following

- Utility bills for gas (mains or LPG), oil, or electricity
- Water and/or sewerage bills

There will be one award of £50.00 for energy and water costs.

2. Food – Support with the costs of food will be provided in vouchers which can be spent in all the main supermarkets. Vouchers will be administered via [Huggg](#)

The following allowances for food vouchers will be given:

Child	£30 each child in the household
Adult	£50 each adult in the household

Multiple applications

Applicants can make one application to the council for both the food scheme and the utilities during the lifetime of this scheme which runs from 1 April 2022.

Important - You can apply for this fund even if you applied for the earlier Household Support Fund which ran until 31 March 2022

If an applicant moves to another authority area, they can claim again subject to eligibility.

Housing costs in exceptional circumstances

Websites will be updated to direct those who identify themselves at risk of losing their home to contact Housing Options (referral link provided on webpage)

Complaints and appeals

There is no right of appeal under this scheme. All decisions are final. Any complaints should be directed to [Our Customer Promise | East Sussex County Council](#)