

Household Support Fund Local Eligibility Framework

Lewes District Council

Introduction

The Department for Work and Pensions has made £842m available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need and to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living via the Household Support Fund. This funding covers the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 inclusive. East Sussex County Council has allocated the Council £194,235 to cover the first six months of the scheme and to meet the Council's administrative costs. The Department for Work and Pensions has issued guidance on how they expect the scheme to be operated.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be over the age of 18 and have recourse to public funds
- Be resident in the Local Authority to which they are applying to.
- Be liable for Council Tax, Rent or a mortgage
- Have less than £6,000 in capital
- Be in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction, but not receiving one of the following means tested benefits:
 - Pension Credits
 - Universal Credit – those who receive the Limited Work Capability element are eligible
 - Working and/or Child Tax Credits
 - Income Support
 - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Residents in receipt of one of the following disability benefits who also receive one of the means-tested benefits above can be eligible:
 - Attendance Allowance
 - Constant Attendance Allowance
 - Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for adults
 - Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children
 - Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
 - Armed Forces Independence Payment
 - War Pensions Mobility Supplement
 - Carers Allowance
- Or are not in receipt of any means-tested benefit listed above, but have a weekly household income below:
 - £320 for a single person.

- £370 for a couple.
- £420 a single person responsible for a child.
- £470 a couple responsible for a child.

Scheme Criteria

Support will be provided for the following –

- Utility bills for gas (mains and LPG), oil or electricity
- Water and/or sewerage bills
- Food
- Housing costs in exceptional circumstances

There will be one award of £200 per eligible household paid directly to the applicant's bank account.

The scheme will close either on 31 March 2024 or when the funds are exhausted.

Multiple applications

A householder can only make one application during the first six months of the scheme i.e. 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023 and one application during the second six months of the scheme i.e. 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024. Any further application made by a household will not be considered.

If a household moves to another authority's 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 the webpage)

Calculation of income and capital

This will be calculated in accordance with Housing Benefit Regulations 2006

Additional Information

In some circumstances it may be necessary for additional information or evidence to be supplied, this will be requested and need to be supplied through the online application portal.

Complaints and appeals

There is no right of appeal under this scheme. All decisions are final. Any complaints should be directed to

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus/complaints/customer-promise>