

Eligibility and operating criteria

Introduction

The Government has awarded funding to local councils to primarily support vulnerable households meet daily needs and should primarily be used to help pay for food, energy and water bills. Each authority can devise their own procedures, targets and criteria for awarding support. This document outlines the approach and different schemes that Blackpool Council will operate.

Scheme 1 - Extension to Free School Meals

We will provide support to Families that are entitled to Free School Meals for May and June bank holidays and school summer holidays 2022. Support will be provided at the rate of £3 per school holiday day for each eligible child. Vouchers will be distributed directly by schools to eligible families and there is no requirement for families to apply for this support.

Scheme 2 - Support for pensioners

Pensioners who are in receipt of pension credit will be entitled to a payment of £100. We will write to eligible pensioners during May and June 2022 to explain the arrangements for payment.

Residents will not need to apply for this payment as we are able to identify those that are eligible for this support from existing information. In view of the numbers of residents that will be entitled to this support it will not be possible to issue all payments at the same time.

Scheme 3 - Application for household support

To apply, the applicant:

- Must be over the age of 16 and responsible for paying household bills
- Must be a Blackpool Council resident
- Have insufficient resources to meet their immediate short term needs

We will prioritise support relating to energy and water but will also consider awarding a grant to other essential costs if there is an impact on the household budget.

The scheme cannot be used for

- Mortgage payments and ongoing housing support
- Debt advice
- Council tax

To apply for support

There will be an online application process. Residents needing support with the online application should contact their local library.

Evidence required

- Most recent full months bank/building society account statement for the householder and any other adults in the household
- For help with gas, electric, or water costs a copy of the relevant bill clearly showing your name, address and account number. Any awards will normally be paid to the utility provider.

Level of awards

For households without children £100

For households with children £150

Pensioners in receipt of pension credit will not be able to make an application for support on this scheme as they will already have automatically received a payment.

This scheme will commence during May 2022, the scheme will close once the allocated budget has been spent and 30th September 2022 at the latest.

Scheme 4 - Third Sector Grants Scheme

Eligible voluntary, community and faith organisations can apply for funding for projects that will support residents with

- Support with food
- Support for energy and water
- Support for materials linked to energy and water
- Support for wider essentials

Applications can include some or all of the above categories

What we can fund

- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector organisations (VCFSE) across Blackpool to support people in need.
- The maximum we will fund is £5,000 per organisation. We would like to encourage a wide range of bids.
- Any agreed funding needs to be spent by 30th September 2022. Successful applicants will need to provide an outcomes monitoring report.
- Administration expenses may be claimed up to a maximum of 10% of the requested funding

What we cannot fund

- Public or private sector organisations

- Organisations that are not constituted and that do not have a bank account in their own name
- The cost of providing information and advice including debt advice
- Retrospective costs for money already spent
- Projects that benefit public or private enterprise or statutory activities
- Mortgage repayments and associated costs
- Political activities
- Activities not benefiting local residents

Application process

There will be an online application process. Applications will be open during May 2022 for a period of three weeks. Applications will be assessed and scored by a Panel of officers. There will be a further round of funding if the overall allocation is under spent in this round.

Organisations that receive awards will be expected to maintain records of how the funding has been spent and of the outcomes achieved. A monitoring report will be required for all awards. Any underspent amounts will need to be returned.

All funding will need to be spent by 30th September 2022 at the latest.

General information

Fraudulent applications

We are committed to tackling and preventing fraud in all its forms.

If a claimant attempts to claim an award from the Household Support Fund by making a false declaration or providing false evidence or statements, they may have committed an offence under the Theft Act 1968.

Where the council suspects that fraud may have occurred it will investigate the matter as appropriate, and this may lead to criminal proceedings.

Household Support Fund
1st April – 30th September 2022

