

Defra Covid Welfare Grant Scheme

The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies is for local authorities in England to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19

What help can be requested?

Help is provided where the applicant has insufficient funds to afford essential items due to an interruption in their regular income from the Covid19 pandemic. This includes:

- ☑ food
- ☑ pre-paid gas and electric meters
- ☑ replacement of broken white goods which are significant to family health and wellbeing (eg fridge, freezer, oven, washing machine)

Who is eligible for emergency assistance?

Emergency assistance may be awarded to an applicant who at the date of application:-

- has their main residence within the North Lincolnshire Council boundary for a minimum of one month; and
- has been affected economically by the Covid-19 pandemic (eg furloughed, lost job or made redundant, loss of income of themselves or spouse)
- is without the resources to meet their or their family's immediate short-term needs; or
- is unable to afford basic household items and meets the prescribed circumstances

Applicants must be aged 16 or over and should have no other form of immediate financial assistance, for example family, friends, employer, savings.

Applications for emergency assistance

Applications for emergency assistance can be made by completing the online form available [here](#) or by ringing 01724 297000 (option 3, then option 2 then option 1)

Alternatively a trusted organisation can complete this form on a resident's behalf.

Trusted organisations

Trusted organisations need to clarify with a resident that the reason they have insufficient funds to afford essential items is due to an interruption in their regular income from the Covid19 pandemic. For residents who had insufficient funds before the Covid-19 pandemic other avenues are available (see the end of this flyer for more information.)

How will assistance be granted?

Methods of payment currently available under the scheme, include:

- Supermarket vouchers to purchase food
- Fuel vouchers or Paypoint Outlet voucher for pre-payment meter cards only
- Goods from local suppliers

Cash is not held by North Lincolnshire Council and payments will not be awarded this way.

How many applications can be made?

Applications are available as follows:-

- 2 successful applications for a weekly supply of food and
- 1 successful application for fuel (totalling 2 weeks) and
- 1 successful application for white goods

Unsuccessful Applications

Where applications are unsuccessful, and the resident or trusted organisation feels that the decision has been made incorrectly, they have the right to request for the decision to be reviewed

- A request for a review should be made within seven days of the date of decision.
- Further supporting information or evidence should be supplied as to why there is disagreement about the decision.
- Notification of the outcome of the review will be given within 7 days of receiving the request for review, where possible.
- The outcome of the review is final.

• A review can be made by:

Telephone: 01724 297000

Email: benefits@northlincs.gov.uk

Where other help is available?

• A Budgeting Loan from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) can pay for essential things such as rent in advance, furniture, clothes or hire purchase debts. The smallest amount that can be borrowed is £100. A Budgeting Loan is interest-free so you only pay back what you borrow. Loans have to be repayed within 104 weeks.

• A Short Term Benefit Advance is available for residents who are in urgent financial need and claim from a specified list of benefits. To find out more contact either Jobcentre Plus, Department for Work & Pensions or Pension Services.

• Further advice can be given by North Lincolnshire Citizens Advice Bureau. Telephone 01724 870941 for further information.