



Household support fund Leeds - Cost of living grants

The Household Support Fund (HSF) is a Central Government fund. £7.1 Million in total has come into Leeds, much of which has/will be distributed directly to households.

Alongside Leeds Community Anchor Network and Leeds Food Aid Network; Forum Central will be distributing funding as part of the HSF to third sector partners to enable this support to reach those most vulnerable. The funding has to be used to ensure people have fuel and food over the winter period.

Funding will be distributed through grants of up to £1,000 and £5,000.

This funding, administered by Forum Central, is to be distributed to organisations who support Communities of Interest including cultural diversity, people with mental health (inc Young People), learning disabilities, physical and sensory impairment and older people.

Which individuals are eligible for support?

Government guidance states "*The Fund should be used to support households in the most need; particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support*"

It is to be aimed at a wide range of low income households in need "*including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people*".

The guidance also states that this funding can be used to provide '*a basic safety net to individuals regardless of their immigration status*', so those with no recourse to public funds are officially able to access funding.

The funds administered by Forum Central aims to provide much needed support to individuals through community groups.

Application process

Third sector organisations in Leeds can apply for funding. We encourage applications from smaller and grassroots organisations including faith organisations.

The application process will open on Friday 16th December 2022, with the first panel meeting early January 2023.

For us to award funding we must receive a completed application, we are aware of the need for this support to be distributed quickly so have kept the application process to a minimum. Application forms can be completed online through the Forum Central website or downloaded as a word document and emailed to grants@forumcentral.org.uk

If you require help to complete the form please contact (email/person) and we will be happy to help.

The fund will run up until end March 2023 and all funding must be spent by this date. The fund may close before this date, as the fund will close when all monies have been allocated.

The funding will be allocated on a rolling basis with the panel meeting to assess applications weekly.

If you are awarded funding, we will send you a grant agreement form which must be signed and returned back to us in order for us to release funds.

Who else is delivering the fund in my area?

We will share a list with all organisations who have received the grant including those supported by Leeds Food Aid Network and Leeds Community Anchor Network and are also working with the Local Care Partnerships team We will consider delivery by ward or area order, though some will cover more than one ward. There will undoubtedly be a crossover between communities of interest and communities of place but we aim to ensure that delivery on a local level will complement provision city-wide.

What can it be spent on?

The funding can be used to provide fuel costs, food or food vouchers.

Because additional funding has been allocated to the Food Aid Network and the Community Anchor Network, Forum Central will prioritise funding which supports people with issues of fuel poverty.

The grant can also be spent on other wider essentials and essential items including energy saving goods, housing costs and travel in exceptional circumstances (more detail in guidance).

How much can we claim for our overheads?

The official guidance states that 'reasonable cost' should be taken for overheads, LCC request that organisational overheads should not be over 15%.

What are the monitoring requirements?

You will be expected to return the monitoring by **Friday 31st March**.

A monitoring template will be provided alongside the grant agreement form, which will include the following:

*Overall spend

*Categories of types of support
(Food, fuel, wider essentials etc.)

*Household composition of beneficiaries
(Household with children/with pensioners/ disable people/other)

This is trust-based funding, awarded on the basis you are best placed to meet the needs of the communities you work with. No further proof of spend will be requested, but you are expected to maintain a record as would be required via your own internal processes.

Along with this, please do get in touch with any updates if you are experiencing increased or unexpected demand, it would be good to understand these pressures and we can feed the info back into a city-wide picture.