

Emergency Assistance Grant

citizens
advice



2020

AVENUES OF SUPPORT TO CONSIDER FIRST

The council has other avenues through which it can support residents with financial difficulties in a range of circumstances. These include:

- Providing help with housing costs through Discretionary Housing Payment
- Providing care leavers with help with setting up home costs and other items through the Care Leavers Grant administered by the Children and Adults Directorate
- Referring rough sleepers to the Housing Department
- Welfare Benefits Advice and assistance with making applications
- Adult Social Care assistance to adults with disabilities, older people and carers
- Emergency support under the National Assistance Act for people who are destitute.

Grant Guidance for Assistance

The Scheme applies to the following groups (not an exhaustive list):

- People fleeing Domestic Violence.
- People leaving prison .
- People returning to the community from residential care.
- Supporting people to remain living independently.
- Homeless people or people moving out of temporary accommodation.
- Applicants with no recourse to public funds.

Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must qualify in accordance with the Eligibility Criteria and awards granted must be in accordance with the Allowable Awards.

Eligibility
Must be aged 16 or over
Able to demonstrate they have been a permanent resident in Medway
Are applying for or are eligible for benefits: for example, Universal Credit
Are leaving care in the next 6 weeks and have a referral from a professional support worker (social worker, probation officer – must have a transition plan for the second).
Have demonstrated they are without immediate resource to meet the basic needs of themselves and/or of their dependents
Are not eligible for Advance of benefit payment or budgeting loan from DWP that could meet their need
Have not received DWP Community Care Grants, Crisis Loans or an LWP award within the last 12 months (unless there are exceptional circumstances)
In exceptional circumstances the applicant can receive an award if they or an immediate family member has received 2 awards within a 12-month rolling period.
Applicants with no recourse to public funds, regardless of immigration status, in genuine need

WHAT IS A CRISIS?

A crisis could, for example, cover the following risks:

- No access to essential items (food, heating and clothing)
- Domestic abuse, neglect and harm
- A flood, fire and gas explosion
- Low income poverty (when people do not have the means to pay for food or gas/electric)



WHAT ISN'T A CRISIS?

What does not count as a crisis:

- Minor mishaps or damage/failure of a household item (only in exceptional circumstances)
- Lost or spent money
- Unable to access savings or capital

How to make an Application to the Emergency Assistance Grant

Applications can be made in the following ways



01634 383 760

- Either the applicant or a third party can ring.



https://www.medwayadvice.org.uk/page-local_welfare_provision.html

- Either the applicant or a third party can complete the online application.

When you visit our website (www.medwayadvice.org.uk) you'll see a button on the home page that says "Local Welfare Provision".

Free, confidential advice. Whoever you are.

We help people overcome their problems and campaign on big issues when their voices need to be heard.

We value diversity, champion equality, and challenge discrimination and harassment. We're here for everyone.



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