

Hertfordshire Household Support Grant – HSF5

Funding provided by Hertfordshire County Council as part of the Government's Help for Households.

Fund Criteria and Guidance for Applicants

Grants Available: Up to £5,000

When to apply: Grants will be considered on a rolling basis up until a final application deadline to be confirmed – check our website for updates.

Applications are assessed and decisions made on a rolling basis, with approximately a 2 month turnaround although this may be longer during busy periods.

About the grants:

This funding has been made available by Hertfordshire County Council as a part of the Government's Household Grant to support people particularly affected by food and fuel poverty.

Grants are available to groups working in areas of deprivation in Hertfordshire that support adults with or without children by providing access to food and/or support with bills such as fuel and water. Groups can be those providing support to specific groups as listed below, who are particularly affected by rising essential costs.

Funding criteria:

Applications from charities, groups and non-profit organisations supporting adults that fall into any of the following categories are eligible to apply for funding:

- Individuals in crisis (e.g., people facing poverty, experiencing or at risk of homelessness, poor mental health, disability, long term illness, domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction etc) and their families, with or without children
- Those facing food poverty
- Those facing fuel poverty
- Minority and marginalised groups who have been particularly affected by the pandemic and by the cost-of-living crisis.

Applications from groups who employ benefit advisors wishing to distribute food and fuel vouchers to vulnerable adults will also be welcome.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply to the Household Support Grant your organisation must fulfil the following criteria:

- The group must be a not for profit, charity, community or voluntary group with a written constitution or governing document
- The governing document must include the groups aims or purpose, objectives and a dissolution clause or asset lock which states what would happen to any funds should the group have to close.
- The group must be governed by a voluntary trustee or management committee with a minimum of three members, at least two of whom must be unrelated.
- The group must have a bank account in its own name, with at least two unrelated signatories
- The group must have all the relevant policies in place for its work, including Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding.
- The group must be working to meet the needs of the local community in Hertfordshire
- The group must be based in Hertfordshire or be able to show specifically how the funding they are applying for will benefit people in the county.
- Faith groups will be considered as long as their project does not include proselytising.

Applications are welcome from charities, community and voluntary groups and not for profits of all sizes. Housing Associations are also welcome to apply. However, priority will be given to local groups with an in-depth knowledge of the issues they are dealing with and the communities they serve.

Who can't apply?

- Groups and organisations that are already in receipt of Household Support Fund grant funding via Hertfordshire County Council or their local council e.g., Citizens Advice and major food banks.
- National Charities without a Hertfordshire focus
- Business or profit-making enterprises
- Organisations where any one person has significant control
- Statutory organisations including schools, parish councils and CCGs
- Organisations that cannot demonstrate public benefit as defined by the Charity Commission (for more information visit www.charitycommission.gov.uk)
- Individuals

What can the grant be used for

The fund is primarily to be used to provide support with food, energy, water and wider essentials.

Food: To provide support with food whether in kind or through vouchers or other means.

Energy and water: The fund can also be used towards energy bills for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders. The cost of running specialist equipment for those with illness and disability can be supported.

Essentials linked to food, energy and water: The Fund can be used to provide support with essentials linked to energy and water in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access food, energy and water. Examples include: sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, ovens, maintenance and repair of specialist equipment to help those with disabilities.

All awarded grants must be spent to meet immediate needs within six months of receipt.

Monitoring and evaluation requirements:

All successful grant recipients will have to complete a simple online monitoring form to report back on how the money has been used and what difference it has made and in particular which groups of the community have benefited broken down by older people, adults, children, people with disabilities. Monitoring forms will be sent shortly after the grant has been awarded so you are aware of the information we require. Failure to submit proper monitoring will affect the likelihood of future funding from HCF.

Grant value

Grants of up to £5,000 are available but larger grants (up to £10,000) may be considered where a group can show an ability to work across a larger geography or support significant numbers of local residents. If you would like to apply for a grant in excess of £5,000, please contact grants@hertscf.org.uk before making an online application.

How to apply:

Organisations can apply through the HCF website [here](#) and will need to:

- Complete the online application form
- Attach or send the required supporting documents which include:
 - A copy of the group's constitution or governing documents
 - A copy of the groups most recent annual accounts
 - A list of the names and addresses of your trustee or management committee
 - Copies of relevant equality or safeguarding policies

Further information:

If you have read the above criteria but still have questions about your eligibility, please email grants@hertscf.org.uk detailing your question.