

Household Support Fund Local Eligibility Framework –

Lewes District Council

Introduction

The Department for Work and Pensions has made £421m available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need and to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living via the Household Support Fund. This funding covers the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024 inclusive. East Sussex County Council has allocated the Council £112,945.00 to cover the scheme and to meet the Council's administrative costs. The Department for Work and Pensions has issued guidance on how they expect the scheme to be operated.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be over the age of 18 and have recourse to public funds.
- Be resident in the Local Authority to which they are applying to.
- Have made an application to the authority, through the designated application portal.
- Be liable for Council Tax, Rent or a Mortgage for their home.
- Have less than £6,000 in capital.
- Be in receipt of Council Tax Reduction as set out in the authority's Council Tax Reduction and S13a Scheme, or
- Housing Benefit as set out in the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 and the Housing Benefits (State Pension Credit) Regulations 2006
- Or, if not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or Housing Benefit, be in receipt of one of the following benefits:
 - Pension Credits
 - Universal Credit – with no tapered deduction for earnings
 - Income Support
 - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance

Scheme Criteria

Support will be provided for the following –

- Utility bills for gas (mains and LPG), oil or electricity
- Water and/or sewerage bills
- Food

There will be one award of £100 per eligible household paid directly to the applicant's bank account.

The scheme will close either on 30 September 2024 or when the funds are exhausted, whichever is sooner.

Multiple applications

A householder can only receive one award during the lifetime of the scheme. Any further application made by a household will not be considered.

If a household moves to another authority's area, they can claim again subject to eligibility.

Calculation of capital and rental liability

This will be determined in accordance with the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006.

Additional Information

In some circumstances it may be necessary for additional information or evidence to be supplied, this will be requested and will need to be supplied through the online application portal.

Complaints and appeals

There is no right of appeal under this scheme. All decisions are final.

Any complaints should be directed to

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus/complaints/customer-promise>