

# Emergency Assistance Grant Scheme

The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant is to help support residents of the Preston area who do not have enough resources to meet the immediate short-term needs and urgently require assistance with food and essentials items.

They must be experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of Covid-19.

Awards will be made where there is no alternative means of meeting the need.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the scheme they must be:

- Aged 16 years or over
- A resident of the Preston area - please visit [GOV.UK - to find your local council](#)
- Experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of Covid-19 and not have enough resources to meet your immediate short-term needs
- On a low income or in receipt of one of the following benefits:
  - Universal Credit
  - Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Employment Support Allowance
  - Income Support
  - Pension Credit

## Support available

The scheme can help with short-term living costs such as food, gas and electric, essential household appliances and school uniforms. Cash will not usually be awarded.

If white goods such as washing machines or fridges are required, items will be purchased through the scheme and delivery will be arranged directly to their home.

The scheme will also signpost to other sources of advice and support to ensure that they get all the assistance you are entitled to. They may be offered a referral for advice and assistance with finance, debt and/or welfare benefits, to help address long-term needs.

## Restrictions

The scheme does not cover:

- Any requests for items that are not essential
- Applications from those with sufficient income or savings

- Requests for household items where these are the responsibility of the landlord

## **How long will it take for a decision to be made?**

We aim to make a decision within 72 hours of receiving all the required information, other than for household goods, where we aim to decide within five working days. Depending on the level of demand for the scheme, this may not always be possible.

To speed up the application process please ensure they fully complete the application form and provide all the evidence we ask for.

Please do not chase up applications until at least five working days after it was submitted.

## **How to apply**

To apply please complete the Emergency Assistance Grant form.

### **[Apply for the Emergency Assistance Grant](#)**

They can also telephone our Community Hub (Preston Together) on 01772 906777 or email [EAGS@preston.gov.uk](mailto:EAGS@preston.gov.uk).

We will need the following information:

- Address
- Full household details
- Circumstances
- Income and the affect Covid-19 has had on this
- Bank statement
- What support is needed

## **Submitting evidence**

We will contact you if further information is required. Please make a note of your application reference number, as we will ask for this when you are submitting any evidence.

Your evidence can be submitted in the following ways:

- By uploading your documents.
- By email to [EAGS@preston.gov.uk](mailto:EAGS@preston.gov.uk)

**Please ensure name and address is provided along with any evidence documents.**

## **Can I appeal a decision if my application is unsuccessful?**

As this is a discretionary scheme there is no right of appeal. However, if you think we have overlooked important information then you can ask for us to look at the application again by emailing [EAGS@preston.gov.uk](mailto:EAGS@preston.gov.uk).

This decision will be final.

