



The scheme provides support for those in **financial crisis**, helping those who are **unable to meet their immediate short term needs** or require assistance to maintain their independence within the community. Applications are considered on individual basis. This is a grant-based system which means that applicants are not required to repay any award made to them.

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### LOCAL WELFARE PROVISION

A list of available schemes by the council.

There are many ways in which the council can help those who struggle financially and need extra support.

**These schemes can be accessed through Birmingham City Council Benefits Service.**

What you get?

Awards will be made by way of **pre-paid cards or delivered goods.**

How to apply?

Use the online application form which can be accessed at any time  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/LWP](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/LWP)

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### CRISIS GRANT

Crisis Grant is designated to meet **expenses that cannot be met from another source**, that have risen as a consequence of a **disaster** and must be the only way of preventing or mitigating serious risk to health or safety to the applicant or a member of their immediate family.

Payments would be made to cover the following risks:

- access to essential needs (food and heating)
- imminent deterioration in health
- children being taken into care/breakdown of family unit

To be eligible all of the following criteria need to be satisfied. The applicant must be:

- a resident of Birmingham
- aged 16 or over
- without sufficient resources to meet the immediate short-term needs
- not be a subject to immigration control or have no resource to public funds

**Disaster** is considered to be "an event which causes great distress or destruction and includes major flooding, gas explosions, house fire. A disaster could also cover having no financial funds available to meet daily living expenses. List is not exhaustive.

Crisis Grants will be made for the **provision of:**

- food and heating
- nappies and other essentials items such as bedding, crockery, etc.

An application for a Crisis Grant must be made through the online application via Council's website.

There is no minimum payment as each case is assessed on **individual circumstances.**

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## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT

Community Support Grant may be made if this will **help with costs to ease exceptional pressures for a person and their family**. Some examples of situations that may give rise to exceptional pressure are:

- Someone in the family **suffers from a disability or chronic sickness** which gives rise to an exceptional need and where that need **cannot be met by other support funds like DLA/PIP**
- there is, or has been, a **breakdown of relationships** within the family (including **domestic violence**)
- there is a **serious problem with the accommodation**, such as overcrowding or structural problems
- domestic upheaval because of **unforeseen circumstances** such as house fire, flooding or other disaster.

This is not an exhaustive list. What causes exceptional pressure can cover a wide range of personal circumstances. When considering applications, officers will look at all the factors causing pressures on the family and will decide:

- whether any of them individually or collectively when looked at as a whole, constitute exceptional pressure and
- if so, whether the items applied for will ease that exceptional pressure

Community Support Grants will be considered for the provision of:

- furniture
- white goods
- household goods

Applicants may be referred to other relevant departments if applicable, such as Adults Social Care, Children, Young Persons and Families.

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**Do not suffer in silence, we are here to help.**

If you would like help with filling in the applications, please contact us to arrange an appointment with the NEST Team.

Contact us at:

**0121 384 2333**

**[advice@new-heights.org.uk](mailto:advice@new-heights.org.uk)**

