

Household Support Grant Briefing

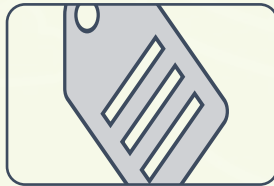
Background and context

- This extension to the Government's Household Support Fund will see £421 million distributed through county and unitary councils to support households in the most need with food, energy and water bills, during the period October 2022 to March 2023.
- The fund can be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and with wider essential costs. Additionally, in exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
- In a change to previous schemes, there is no ringfence of any proportion of funding within this round, and a requirement to operate at least part of the scheme on an application basis has been introduced.
- The Household Support fund will continue to be administered by the connect4communities programme.

In Hampshire

- Hampshire County Council's share of the Household Support Grant is **£7.124 million**. Local authorities must spend the funding between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023.
- Hampshire County Council has worked with partners, including representatives from the voluntary and charitable sector, Adults' Health and Care, Local Children's Partnerships, the Supporting Families Programme, Schools, Colleges, Children's Social Care, Early Years and Childcare providers, libraries, catering and supplies teams, and communications to further develop the '**connect4communities**' programme.

The connect4communities programme



School, Colleges and Early Years settings

Discretionary grant based on number on roll
Additional 20p per day for schools per free school meal eligible child



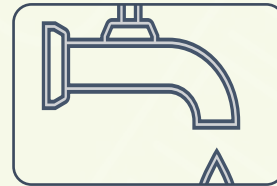
Food vouchers

£500 for foster carers
£100 for care leavers
£100 for families open to Disabled Children's Teams
£20 for households eligible for council tax support
£40 for households eligible for housing benefit



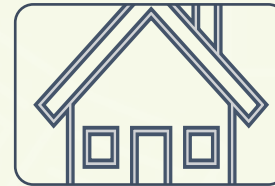
Targeted grants

Work with social care teams and organisations delivering direct support to those adults and families open to social care teams, Gateway Card holders and unpaid carers



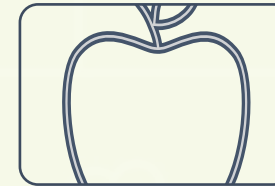
Support with Gas, Electric & Water Bills

Funding allocated to Citizens Advice to provide support to households with utility bills



Support with Housing Costs

Funding for District and Borough Councils to administer this element



Community Pantries

Access to discounted food at 19 pantries across Hampshire and 11 mobile larders operating in the New Forest



Community Grants

A range of organisations can apply for funding to support schemes in local areas

Connect4Communities Directory – signpost to what is available locally
Supply of **air fryers** for households without access to economic cooking facilities



connect4
communities

Food vouchers

- All care leavers not in prison will receive two **£50 vouchers for food**: one in January 2023, another in March 2023
 - Vouchers will be issued through Care Leavers Teams and will be redeemable in a range of supermarkets
 - An estimated **678 care leavers** and **103 young people aged 16+ in supported lodgings** will benefit from these vouchers
- 517 in-house **foster carers** will receive **£500 food voucher** to contribute to the cost of living this winter
- District councils will distribute food vouchers: **£20** to households in receipt of **council tax support**, and **£40** to those only in receipt of **housing benefit**. This support should benefit nearly **86,000** households.

Those with disabilities & unpaid carers

- Two £50 food vouchers for **670 families of children** open to the Disabled Children's Team leading up to Christmas
- Work with social care teams and organisations providing direct support to enable grants to be targeted towards further support over the winter period. Around **7,000 adults** with disabilities and **2,000 Gateway Card holders** could benefit from this funding.
- Work with organisations that support approximately **133,000 unpaid carers** in Hampshire to reach those most in need of support.

Support with utility bills

- Support available through local Citizens Advice branches.
- Grant funding provided to enable Citizens Advice to provide **targeted support with fuel bills**. Individual awards dependent upon circumstances.
- Working with Citizens Advice will reduce the potential for double funding with other grants available which, in turn, will ensure that any financial support can be provided alongside broader support and advice.
- Around **1,700 households expected to benefit** from this support.

Exceptional housing support

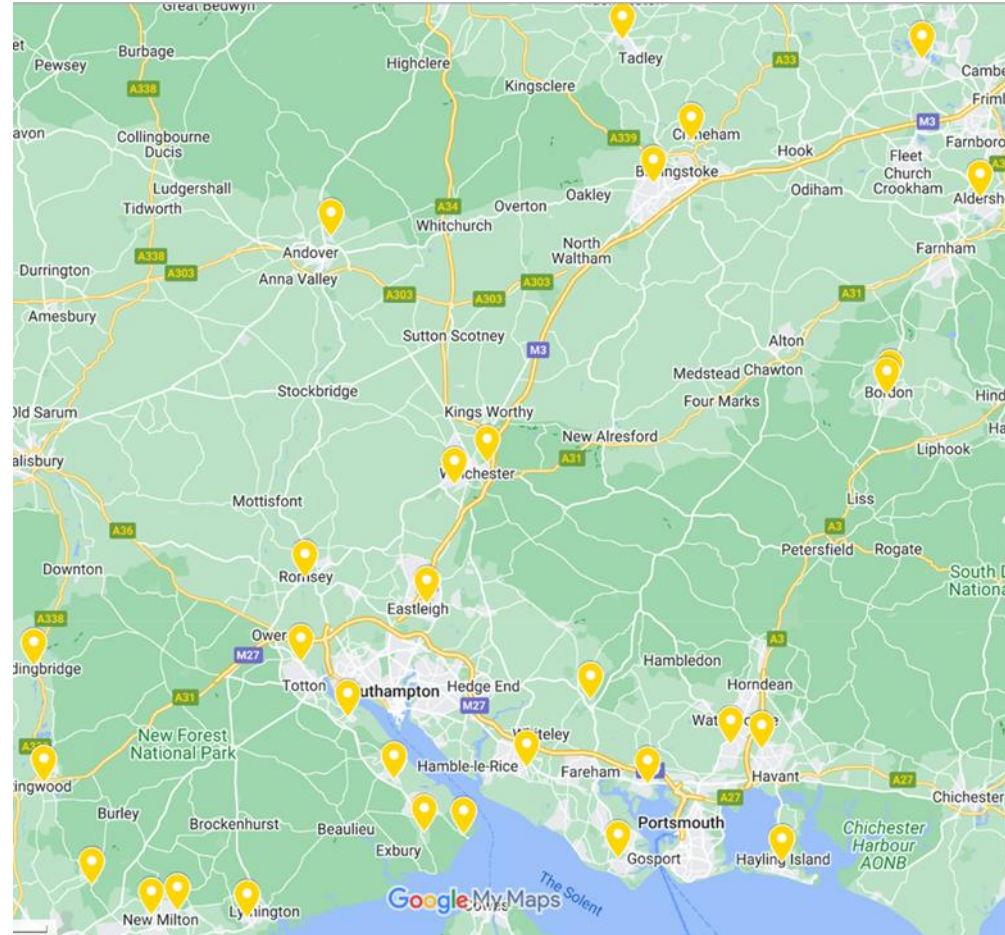
- For cases of **genuine emergency**, where existing housing support schemes do not meet need
- Administered through District and Borough Councils
- Eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) must be considered first, and consideration given to whether there is a statutory risk of homelessness and therefore a duty of support is owed through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG)
- Cannot use for mortgage arrears or unsustainable tenancies.

Community pantries

To date there are 19 community pantries and 11 mobile larders that have previously been awarded funding from the Household Support Grant which has enabled them to become part of the Community Pantry network.

- Who is eligible?































Anyone can access their local community pantry; all it takes is to sign up as a member at the pantry which then allows use of the community pantry once a week. The membership process is managed through the pantry directly.



Link to google map

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1qvZvrC1L8DK_VVbXE_pAE5mw8uno2V0&ll=51.061462714849014%2C-1.3129534989542146&z=10

Information about where Community Pantries are currently located is also published on the directory: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/results.page?familychannel=2-6&qt=pantry&term=&sorttype=relevance&familychannel=0>

-  Basingstoke Community Pantry
-  Café 1759
-  Carrol Centre Food Pantry
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Blackfield
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Bransgore
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Calshot
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Fordingbridge
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Hythe
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Marchwood
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Nedderman Centre
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - New Milton
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Pennington
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Ringwood
-  FareShare Mobile Larder - Totton
-  Gosport Community Pantry
-  Growing Places Community Pantry
-  Hayling Island Community Pantry
-  Munch Community Food Pantry
-  Popley Fields Food Pantry
-  RCS Community Pantry - Andover
-  RCS Community Pantry - Eastleigh
-  RCS Community Pantry - Romsey
-  Sacred Heart Community Pantry
-  Tadley Community Food Pantry
-  The Community Cupboard
-  The Wickham Pantry
-  Unit 12 - Community Food Pantry
-  Waypoint Hub
-  Woodsy's Pantry, Portchester
-  Yateley Community Pantry

Community grants

- **£0.5M** available to provide grants that will enable a flexible and responsive approach to **meeting local need**, as and when they are identified.
- Community, voluntary and charitable organisations as well as education settings, faith groups and town and parish councils will be able to apply for a community grant. Education settings will also be able to request funding for ancillary items should they be aware of a family in need.
- The evaluation panel will meet on a weekly basis so payment for approved applications can be made swiftly. Applications for a Community Grant can be submitted immediately and until March 2023.
- Applications can be made via: <http://connect4communities.org>
- Details of the support offered through all awarded grants will also be published on the website.

How you can help

- **Share details** of the offer and signpost to households who may benefit from the initiatives in place
- Encourage local organisations to **apply for community grants**
- Encourage households to use their local **community pantry**

Questions?

- Website: <http://connect4communities.org>
- Email: connect4communities@hants.gov.uk
- Telephone: **0300 555 1384**
- Directory: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>
- Citizens Advice: [Community Support - Search Results | Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)
- District and Borough Councils: [District Planning Authorities | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)