



Covid Winter Grant Scheme Eligibility Criteria

Guidance for Teams providing vouchers or parcels

The aim of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme is to give vulnerable households peace of mind in the run up to Christmas and over the Winter months during the pandemic by helping those who need it to have food on the table and other essentials, so every child will be warm and well-fed this winter. Targeting this money effectively will ease the burden faced by a wide range of vulnerable households across the country worrying about paying the next utility bill or the next food shop due to the pandemic.

The objective of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme is to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.

This support will be provided through organisations known to the households and the grant will not be opened out to all members of the public to apply for.

What can the grant be used for? Supermarket vouchers, contributions to food banks and food clubs, fuel vouchers and support with water bills. Supermarket vouchers can also be used for essential items such as a winter coat, sanitary products etc.

Who is the grant for?

- The Grant will be used solely for residents who are struggling financially due to Covid
- The Grant will be used for families with children up to the age of 18,
- The Grant will be used for vulnerable households without children (including individuals) so that no vulnerable household is excluded.
- Households without children and vulnerable individuals who are struggling to purchase food, utility bills and other essentials between December and the end of March 2021 can access support.

Households with Children

The Grant will be used solely for residents of Nottinghamshire County, excluding the City unless they attend a county early years setting, school or college where they meet one of the following:

- There are children/young people within the household who are eligible for free school meals due to low household income (to cover term time periods). This will be managed by schools and FE Colleges.
- There are children within the household who are eligible for a funded 2-year-old childcare place or the Early Years Pupil Premium (to cover term time periods). This will be managed by early years settings.
- The household is in receipt of or has made an application for Universal Credit or other Income Related Employment or Support Allowance (ESA), Income or Jobseekers Allowance income based.
- The household has no recourse to public funds.
- There is considerable in-work poverty (which may be temporary).
- The household has been assessed by a professional as in urgent need as they do not have the means for essential food, energy or water

Vulnerable Households without children/Vulnerable Individuals:

The Grant will be used solely for residents of Nottinghamshire County, excluding the City where households without children and vulnerable individuals who are struggling to purchase food, utility bills and other essentials between December and the end of March 2021

- Care Leavers aged 19-24 (to receive support through their Social Worker or Personal Advisor).
- Young People aged 19-24 years old with an Education Healthcare Plan who are eligible for Free School Meals. This will be managed by Further Education Colleges.
- The household is in receipt of or has made an application for Universal Credit, or other Income Related Employment or Support Allowance (ESA), Income or Jobseekers Allowance income based.
- The household has no recourse to public funds
- Referred by a Foodbank or Citizens Advice Bureau after seeking debt advice.
- Verified as Rough Sleeping or Homeless
- There is considerable in-work poverty (which may be temporary)
- The household has been assessed by a professional as in urgent need as they do not have the means for essential food, energy or water

The following considerations and restrictions must be applied:

The value of each voucher should not exceed the following allocations:

- No more than £30 per household member. If there are more than 3 members of the household, we can only issue a voucher up to £90. The same applies if you are preparing parcels of food & essentials parcels, they should be worth no more than £30 for one person and no more than £90 for households with more than 3 people.
- Households can claim vouchers / parcels through this scheme no more than 3 times between now and the end of March 2021.
- Not more than £178 total per household in respect of utilities (up to two fuel payments at £49, one water payment of £80).
- Repeat requests should be monitored in order to signpost to effective long-term support and advice.
- Supporting evidence of need and eligibility should be seen and recorded for audit purposes.

Exclusions:

- Those who live outside of the Nottinghamshire County Council borders will be excluded from this scheme and will need to approach their own Local Authority.
- Housing costs are expressly excluded. The scheme is not intended to cover payment of rent or other housing costs because these are not directly related to food or utility bills and other benefits and support is available to cover these costs.
- The grant will not be used for white goods. If requests are made for the purchase of white goods e.g. cookers, fridges, boiler repair etc, Workers will be asked to assist individuals to find alternative support e.g. workers can apply to the [BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme](#) on behalf of households with children, or through [Nottingham Energy Partnership](#) for white goods and heating/energy efficiency/home improvement requests.

For more information for professionals: covidwintergrant@nottsc.gov.uk

The [Nottinghamshire Coronavirus Community Support Hub](#) brings together the many local volunteer groups offering help with those who are staying at home because of Coronavirus. Please use this service if you are unsure where to go to access the scheme or other schools