



Bristol City Council

COVID 19 Winter Grant Scheme Policy

1. Background

On Sunday 8 November 2020, the government [announced](#) a package of extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period.

The £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme sees new funding issued to Councils to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated fuel costs.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will provide funding to Councils, under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, who will administer the scheme and provide direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic. This will include families who normally have access to Free School Meals during term time.

2. Period Covered

The Winter Grant Scheme will enable Bristol City Council to provide support to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals from early December 2020 and covers the period until the end of March 2021.

In addition there will an expansion of the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, across England from April next year. Funding for this nationally will be £220 million. This, policy does not cover that scheme.

3. Winter Grant Scheme

3.1 Funding available

Bristol City Council will receive funding of £1,640,461 from central government.

3.2 Eligibility Criteria

- 80% of the fund must be spent on children and families (including pre-school) broken down as follows:
 - 80% must be expended on food and key utilities
 - 20% can be paid to any 'vulnerable' households.
- With the final 20% discretion can be used to identify and support those that are most in need.
- No application is needed if households requiring assistance can be determined in advance.
- Individuals, regardless of their immigration status are eligible, to ensure a basic safety net of support.
- This grant cannot be spent on rent/housing costs.

3.3 Implementation of fund

- This funding can be used for existing schemes and other support which delivers the same outcomes and where the need is greatest.
- Funding can be provided in cash or vouchers.

- A proportion of the funds can be used for administration, however costs should be kept to a minimum, in order to maximise the overarching funds available to support our most vulnerable citizens. Due to the approach being adopted in the deployment of these funds, the administration cost is expected to be in the region of £100,000 (6%, significantly below the standard 10%).

3.4 Reporting structure

All public authorities must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and management information (MI) is required to be kept to be maintained by the relevant organisations and provided to the Council to report on delivery of agreed objectives and actual spend.

3.5 Receipt of funds

- Grant receipt from the awarding body will be as follows:
 - 50% upfront (in early December)
 - a further 25% after the initial MI return (in Feb/March '21)
 - final 25% based on spend to date (end of April 2021).

4. Approved Spend

Award	Spend Value	Comments
Targeted support for 2 – 16+ who receive Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium for Christmas and Feb half term (3 weeks x 20,000 children)	£918,915	This is for a total of 3 weeks and at a value of £15 x approx. 20,000 children (plus buffer). This is an extension of the FSM reach in Oct half term. Does not cover 2 weeks in Easter '21. Vouchers will be supplied which allows the recipient to choose which supermarket they wish to use.
Emergency payments from the Local Crisis and Prevention Fund	£300,000	Emergency payments to support low-income families during the Recovery Phase of COVID 19 that have been directly financially impacted and may require food and other financial assistance
Administration, communications and marketing, particularly to reach hardest to help groups.	£100,000	As referenced above this is 6% of the total award.
Food/Fuel parcel for Bristol's care leavers.	£40,000	100 care leavers to get a voucher to assist with their food and heating costs. To be administered by Children, Families and Safer Communities Directorate.
Total	£1,640,461	
Remaining Balance	£282,461	£281,999 is to be allocated in January '21 to community organisations across the city. The detailed spend for this is shown in Appendix 1 .

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Organisation	Intention	Total Awarded (incl admin)
BS3 Community Development	Targeted support to economically vulnerable local people similar to DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant criteria.	£10,000
Henbury & Brentry Community Council	Fuel and food costs for families with children	£10,000
Ambition Lawrence Weston	Supporting households with top up of gas/electric, food, internet (children are needing home schooling) and essential household items	£7,000
Inns Court Community & Family Centre	Essential goods hampers for local people suffering from loneliness/isolation.	£5,000
St Werburghs Community Association	Food and fuel vouchers plus discretionary awards	£8,000
Matthew Tree Project	Food £12k, personal hygiene items £4k, household cleaning products £4k.	£15,000
BASE & Roses	Food (hot and cold) and essential items boxes - including toiletries to various vulnerable groups, such as those shielding, refugees, asylum seekers.	£5,544
Oasis Hub South Bristol	60 families in high deprivation ward, bedding, kitchen utensils, fuel support.	£15,000
Children's Scrapstore	Activity packs for vulnerable families and older people to help with mindfulness and the reduction of stress and anxiety through activity	£15,000
Learning Partnership West	Food, utilities, essential items, live/learning/work resources, plus vouchers/emergency cash to identified vulnerable households	£12,600
Talking Money	Targeted food and fuel grants to economically vulnerable people similar to DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant criteria	£11,600
Heart of BS13	9,000 meal ingredients (£10k), supermarket vouchers (£12k), targeted food and fuel grants similar to DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant criteria (>£11k)	£28,700
Somali Resource Centre	Food and essentials for families and financial plus additional grant for destitute households	£10,000
Bristol Horn Youth Concern	Laptops, food, cultural food and stationery	£10,000
Bristol Refugee Rights	Distribution of vouchers for food/clothing/data/credit to individuals and families.	£16,230
Malcolm X	Culturally appropriate food parcels, hot food parcels, food vouchers and healthcare packages	£10,000
Somali Kitchen Team	Culturally appropriate food parcels, baby essentials, utility top ups, hygiene products	£10,000
Age UK	Emergency assistance grants for older people plus Sparko TV grants to make them 'Smart' TVs	£24,925
Southmead Development Trust	Wellbeing activity packs, laptops, internet and discretionary fund	£20,000
91 Ways	Food and utilities for children and families, food packs, meals and cash for utilities. Meals and ipads as well as vouchers/cash for transport.	£14,000
Bristol Disability Equality Forum	Digital poverty for disabled households - tablet/phone and broadband packages (8Gb pm x 12months)	£11,000
Oasis Hub North Bristol	Grants for their most vulnerable families.	£10,000
Youth Moves	Grants for families they work with	£2,400
Total		£281,999