Guidance for referring vulnerable adults 60+ and unpaid carers for support through the COVID Winter Grant Scheme.

1. **Introduction**

The COVID Winter Grant Scheme has been made available to Councils by the DWP to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs during the winter period, particularly considering the COVID-19 outbreak.

The aim of the programme is to provide support over the winter to children and households who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty, where they are impacted by the ongoing public health emergency and where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable.

Whilst, the focus of the Grant is on vulnerable households with children, a proportion of funding is also available to support vulnerable households without children with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials so that no vulnerable household is excluded.

1. **Eligibility**

Vulnerable adults aged 60+ or adult unpaid carers aged 25+ caring for another adult experiencing or at risk of financial hardship. NB: carers aged under 25 are eligible for alternative support via Barnardos Action on Young Carers.

1. **Who can make referrals?**

Social Workers, OT’s, Careline, Carer Development Workers, organisations commissioned by the local authority or that supports vulnerable adults aged 60+ or adult unpaid carers aged 25+ caring for another adult experiencing or at risk of financial hardship. Currently self-referrals are not being considered. NB: this list will be reviewed periodically.

1. **What can the COVID Winter Grant be used for?**

£75,000 of the allocated funds made to Liverpool City Council has been assigned to Local Solutions to support vulnerable adults 60+ and unpaid adult carers of other adults.

A minimum of 80% (£60,000) is allocated to support with food, energy and water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, and sanitary purposes) and water costs (for household purposes, including sewerage). Within this condition there is flexibility about the proportion of support allocated to food and to bills.

A maximum of 20% (£15,000) is allocated to support with other essential expenditure including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets or boiler service/repair in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household’s ability to afford or access food, energy and water.

Whilst Local Solutions has discretion to provide support based on individual needs as set out in the referral form, it is suggested that:

Food up to £30 per single payment

Energy up to £40 per single payment

Essential clothing up to £30

Bedding/blankets up to £30

Other essentials up to £20 (e.g. essential toiletries £5, kitchen wear)

Repeat applications for food and energy will be considered up to a maximum of 3 applications. However, applications for essential clothing, bedding and other essentials would be considered a one off payment.

1. **What can’t the COVID Winter Grant be used for?**

Rent or other housing costs are excluded as to is mobile phone credit. White goods and larger items such as ovens should be pursued via Liverpool Citizen Support Scheme.

**How to make a referral to the COVID Winter Grant Scheme**

Consent to share information gained

Complete referral form and email to

LETS@localsolutions.org.uk

Local Solutions provide acknowledgement email to clarify referral contents if necessary

Local Solutions make telephone / email contact to beneficiary to confirm need and agree support to be provided

Local Solutions provide support (e.g. via bacs payment, voucher or physical goods)

Beneficiary identified

Local Solutions to maintain monitoring record as required

Vulnerable adults aged 60+ or adult unpaid carers aged 25+ caring for another adult experiencing or at risk of financial hardship.

Referral must contain name and contact tel. of referrer and the following information on the beneficiary:

* Full name
* Address
* Contact Telephone / email
* DOB
* Liquidlogic ref (if available)
* Household with child
* Carer or older person
* Any risks
* Information about the need: food / energy / other - details
* Reason support required:
* Has the person been referred for other financial support / advice?

**COVID Winter Grant Referral Form**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name of referrer:**  | **Date of referral:**  |
| **Contact telephone of referrer:**  |

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| **Section 1: Contact details of the individual being referred:** |
| **Full name:**  | **Address:** |
| **Liquidlogic ref (if available):** |
| **Date of birth:** | **Contact phone:** |
| **Confirm consent to share information been given: Y / N** | **Email:** |
| **Does the household contain a child aged 18 or under? Y / N** |
| **Is the individual being referred a carer** [ ]  **or an older person** [ ]  |
| **Are there any risks associated with the individual that we should be aware of? If yes, please explain?** |

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| **Section 2: Give a brief explanation as to why you are applying to the COVID Winter Grant?** |
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| **Section 3: What are you applying for (provide brief explanation)?**  |
| **Food** |  |
| **Energy** |  |
| **Other** |  |
| **Section 4: Has the individual been referred for other financial support and advice with income and debt (e.g. CAB, Benefit Maximisation, etc…)?** |
| **YES** [ ]  **NO** [ ]  **If no, why not?** |

**Once completed, please email application to** **LETS@localsolutions.org.uk**