

# The Scottish WELFARE FUND

Need help to set  
up or stay in your  
own home?

Have you or your  
family been hit by  
a crisis?

If you're on a low income,  
help could be available from  
the Scottish Welfare Fund



## The Scottish Welfare Fund

Under the Scottish Welfare Fund, two types of grant are available through local councils. They can help people who are on a low income and are having difficulty because of an exceptional situation or in meeting one-off expenses.

- **Crisis Grants** can provide people with a safety net in the event of a disaster or emergency such as a fire or flood, or if money has been lost or stolen
- **Community Care Grants** can help people leaving care to live on their own, or to stay in their own home. These grants can also help families facing exceptional pressures that are in need of essential household items, such as a cooker or a washing machine

If you're facing household difficulties or a crisis, you may be eligible for a grant.

Or, if you work or volunteer in the social care sector, you may come into contact with an individual or family that could benefit from a Crisis Grant or Community Care Grant.



## How can a Crisis Grant help you?

If you're facing a crisis at home such as a fire or flood, or in an emergency situation such as losing all your money or running out of food, a Crisis Grant could help.

Crisis grants can be made in a variety of ways, such as financial help to buy food or pay for heating, or items such as a cooker or furniture following a disaster.

## How can a Community Care Grant help you?

If you're about to leave care to live on your own in the community such as after being in hospital or prison, or face going into care because you don't have the things you need to continue living at home, a Community Care Grant could help.

A Community Care Grant may also be able to help if you're struggling to provide a safe and secure home for your family. For example, you might need help to get essential household items such as a cooker or washing machine but don't have the money to buy them.

Community Care Grants are normally provided in the form of goods, for example:

- cookers
- beds
- furniture
- travel costs

## How to apply

To find out if you are eligible for a Community Care Grant or to make an application, contact your local council or visit [www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/scottishwelfarefund](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/scottishwelfarefund)

## Other information

You may be able to get help in the form of Short Term Benefit Advances, Hardship Payments, Budgeting Loans, Sure Start Maternity Payments and Funeral Payments from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Department for Work and Pensions will also continue to offer support if:

- you are in financial need and have either
- recently made a new claim to benefit or are awaiting the first payment of benefit
- need an advance of benefit to help tide you over until the first payment of benefit is made. (This is a Short Term Benefit Advance.)
  - You need to demonstrate that you are likely to be entitled to a benefit and that you will be able to repay the advance. This is usually within 12 weeks. You will also be required to show that you don't have any other source of financial help

Your local Citizens Advice Bureau, or local Welfare Rights Organisation can offer advice. You'll find details at [www.cas.org.uk/about-us/citizens-advice-bureaux](http://www.cas.org.uk/about-us/citizens-advice-bureaux)

## The Scottish Welfare Fund Help when you need it most



You can contact your local council about applying for a Crisis Grant or Community Care Grant by visiting [www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/scottishwelfarefund](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/scottishwelfarefund) or search Welfare Fund on your local council's website

[www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk)

**The Scottish Welfare Fund**

Delivered by local councils in partnership with the Scottish Government