

Household Support Fund 5 - Eligibility Criteria

Application Based Scheme

Who can apply?

The application-based scheme is open to Luton residents who meet the following criteria:

- They have savings less than £6,000; **AND**
- They are in receipt of any of the eligible benefits; **OR**
- Have a household income less than £34,100

Anyone who meets the above criteria will be able to submit an application for support, how much support they receive will depend on their individual circumstances.

What support can they get?

Anyone who meets the above criteria can submit an application. The award will depend on which sub-criteria they meet.

Anyone placed in Temporary Accommodation in Luton by another authority, will need to contact their parent authority to access their Household Support Fund offering.

The support will be given in the form of grocery vouchers and utility vouchers using the Hugg portal. We will not be making any direct cash payments via BACS and will not be requesting any bank details for payment purposes.

We will assess each application based on their individual circumstances. We will only accept one application per household. The table below provides details of how much support they could be entitled to.

Sub-Criteria	Amount
In receipt of any of the benefits listed	£100 Voucher
Has a child(ren) under 5 at the same address	£100 Voucher
They or anyone in the household uses medical equipment or devices for the disability or long-term health condition	£200 Voucher
Has a pre-payment meter for their gas or electricity	£100 Voucher

The minimum eligible applicant can get is £100 grocery vouchers, and the maximum they could get is £500 worth grocery, utility and cash vouchers. The above is an indication of entitlement, they will need to complete the application and provide the necessary supporting evidence to qualify. Please refer to table below.

How can they apply?

All applications will need to be submitted online. Residents can access the application and get support in completing the application at the library kiosks by booking an appointment.

The applications for the scheme will open from mid-June 2024 and end on 30 September 2024.

How much support could they be entitled to?

Details of the support packages is as follows:

Criteria	Information	Documents to be provided	Support allocation
Any member of the household receives any of the benefits listed	<p>The qualifying benefits are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jobseeker's Allowance (Income or Contribution based) - Employment and Support Allowance (Income based and Contribution Based) - Universal Credit - Income Support - Tax Credits (Child or Working Tax Credit) - Council Tax Support - Housing Benefit only - Carers Allowance - Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit and Savings Credit) 	Proof of benefits will need to be uploaded	£100 Voucher
Has a household income less than £34,100	<p>This criteria will ensure we are supporting low income households who may not be entitled to means tested benefits or free school meals at school.</p> <p>Household income includes the income for the applicant, their partner any adults living in the same household.</p>	3 month payslips along with 3 month bank statement or SA302 / last Tax return along with Bank statements will need to be uploaded	£100 Voucher
Has children under the age of 5 living in the same household	This criteria will ensure we are supporting parents with young children who may not be able to increase their income through work and may not have received any cost of living support from the government in the past.	Childs birth certificate or passport along with Child benefit award letter to Child Tax Credit award letter will need to be uploaded.	£100 Voucher
Uses electric medical equipment or devices for the long-term illness or disability	This criteria will enable us to provide support to people who require the use of medical equipment or devices for their long term illness or disability which results in them having higher utility bills.	Prescription for the device or mobility assessment plan detailing the need for the equipment will need to be uploaded.	£200 Voucher

Uses a pre-payment meter for their gas or electricity	Pre-payment meters lets individuals pay small amounts often, but it's usually a more expensive way to pay. This criteria will ensure we capture most effected by the rise in energy costs.	Supplier information required.	£100 Voucher
---	--	--------------------------------	--------------

The maximum award for any household will be £500 worth of support and the minimum an eligible applicant would receive would be £100 of grocery vouchers.

Conditions of the scheme

Only one application per household will be accepted. The total amount of support will depend on the individual's circumstances. Any application made will not impact any targeted support applicants may have received through FSM food vouchers or as a care leaver. They can submit an application even if they have submitted a LWA application in the past. This will not affect any other benefits.

The council will assess and verify the claims using the information submitted and available to us. Awards will be made based on applicant's personal circumstances, the conditions of the scheme and availability of funds. As such the council reserves the right to amend, withdraw or substitute support offered under the scheme at any time. There will be no appeals process for this scheme.