

Appendices to housing assistance policy

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Appendix 1: Schedule of maximum assistance

Type of assistance (discretionary or mandatory)	Maximum assistance (2023)	Comments
Disabled facilities grant (M)	£30,000	This is a national limit set by government
Relocation assistance (D)	£10,000	Loan assistance
Minor adaptations grant (D)	£5,000	Grant assistance
Discretionary disabled facilities grant (D)	£30,000	Grant assistance
Disabled facilities grant top up (D)	£10,000	Grant assistance
Warm homes assistance (D)	£10,000	Grant or loan assistance
Loft conversion and home extension loan (D)	£60,000	Loan assistance
Empty homes assistance (D)	£50,000	Loan assistance
Decent homes loan (D)	£50,000	Loan assistance
OT led Minor assistance (via Occupational Therapy)	£3,000	Grant assistance

Appendix 2: Income eligibility criteria

Mandatory disabled facilities grants (DFGs)

The income eligibility for a DFG is set by government, not Luton Council, and is reviewed from time to time.

In 2021, the maximum household income to 'passport' the Test of Resources is £15,050 per year. Above this level, applicants will be subject to a means test.

Discretionary grants

The following table outlines the minimum income standard for Luton which will be updated annually.

Income eligibility for our discretionary grants is targeted at households who are unable to meet basic needs, therefore having the highest level of deprivation. Households with incomes below or up to the threshold are eligible for assistance. Households who qualify for DFGs can access discretionary support through a [Better Care fund grant](#). Thresholds for 2023 are shown below.

- **Single person:** £19,180
- **Couple:** £25,432
- **Lone parent with:**
 - **1 child:** £26,911
 - **2 children:** £33,495
 - **3+ children:** £37,270
- **Couple with:**
 - **1 child:** £31,834
 - **2 children:** £38,355
 - **3 children:** £49,240
 - **4+ children:** £51,274
 - **1 child plus single pensioner:** £40,877

Appendix 3: Fostering agreement

Households accessing assistance to facilitate fostering for Luton Council must:

- be referred by Luton's Children's Services team
- sign a fostering agreement

Loan assistance will be subject to a legal agreement which, in these cases, will include a sliding scale of repayment requirements.

Indicative wording of fostering agreement

Foster carers receiving loan assistance will be expected to continue to provide foster care for Luton Council following the housing assistance.

For foster carers who resign or deregister from Luton Council will be required to repay the following percentage of the original assistance:

- **up to 5 years:** 100%
- **6 to 10 years:** 75% of the original assistance
- **11 to 15 years:** 50%
- **16years +:** no repayment beyond the annual nominal amount

If the foster carer ceases to foster due to adopting or becoming a special guardian, the repayment required can be waived.

Appendix 4: List of degenerative conditions

In line with section 13.24 of the housing assistance policy, the following conditions will exempt the individual's employment income, and the employment income of their partner, from being considered within the test of resources for disabled facilities grant.

- Motor neurone disease (MND)
- Muscular sclerosis (MS)
- Muscular dystrophies
- Parkinson's disease
- Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP)
- Huntington's disease
- Friedreich's ataxia
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Incurable degenerative conditions such as dementia and some cancers
- Other rare neurological conditions diagnosed by a neurological specialist

These conditions will be kept under review. Decisions are at the discretion of the relevant occupational therapist, following evidence of a consultant's letter or similar.