

Private Sector Housing assistance policy appendix

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Appendix 1 – Schedule of maximum assistance

Type of assistance (discretionary or mandatory)	Maximum assistance (Last reviewed in 2021)	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)	£40,000	Loan assistance
Empty Homes Assistance (D)	£40,000	Loan assistance
Decent Homes Loan (D)	£40,000	Loan assistance

Appendix 2 – Income eligibility criteria

Mandatory disabled facilities grants

The income eligibility for 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 the council's discretionary grants is targeted at households who are unable to meet basic needs, the highest level of deprivation. Households with incomes below or up to the threshold are eligible for assistance.

The 2021 thresholds are as follows:

- Single person is £14,630
- Couple is £19,216
- Lone parent 1 child is £19,212
- Lone parent 2 children is £24,178
- Lone parent 3+ children is £27,275
- Couple 1 child is £22,865
- Couple 2 children is £27,748
- Couple 3 children is £32,110
- Couple 4+ children is £37,764
- Couple 1 child plus single pensioner is £29,262

Appendix 3 – Fostering agreement

Households accessing assistance in order to facilitate fostering for Luton Council must be referred by Luton's Children's Services and 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:

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 between:

- 0 to 5 years, the repayment due will be 100% of the original assistance
- 6 to 10 years, the repayment due will be 75% of the original assistance
- 11 to 15 years, the repayment due will be 50% of the original assistance
- 16+ years, there is 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.

- Disabled Facilities Grant (MND)
- Muscular Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP)
- Huntington's Disease
- Friedreich's Ataxia
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- and other rare neurological conditions diagnosed by a neurological specialist