

Emergency funds and support

Help from Newcastle City Council and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Supporting Independence Scheme

The Supporting Independence Scheme provides basic household items to help people on low income:

- resettle in the community following a stay in an institution for example, a hospital, a care home or custody
- remain in the community rather than enter an institution
- set up home in the community, as part of a planned resettlement programme, following an unsettled way of life

Visit [newcastle.gov.uk](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk) for more information. This scheme replaced the Community Care Grants which were previously part of the DWP's social fund.

Crisis Support Scheme

The Crisis Support Scheme is a payment to help you if you are in a crisis situation and there is a risk to your health and safety of that of a member of your household.

The scheme provides for:

- food
- clothing
- fuel for heating and;
- arranges emergency travel to cover short term periods

It is available to you if you have no other source of funding or financial support.

[More details and an application form](#) from the Council. This scheme replaced the DWP Crisis Loan scheme

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

DHP's are short term extra payments to help you if you are struggling to meet your housing costs.

You must be getting help with your rent in Universal Credit or to Housing Benefit to get a DHP.

[More details and an application form](#) from the Council.

Examples of non discretionary payments and loans from the DWP

- [Funeral Payments](#) can help you with the cost of arranging a funeral. Remember to check to see whether you are entitled to receive this help before making any funeral arrangements.
 - [Cold Weather Payments](#) are made automatically to people who receive benefits such as [Pension Credit](#) or [Income Support](#) during periods (seven consecutive days) of exceptionally cold weather.
 - [Winter Fuel Payments](#) are a one off annual payment for people of [pension age](#) over winter.
 - [Sure Start Maternity Grants](#) for those who are pregnant or had a baby and received health and welfare advice.
 - [Budgeting Loans](#) can help you to buy an item that you can't normally afford for those on means tested benefits like Income Support and Pension Credit. You have to repay a budgeting loan.
 - [Universal Credit Budgeting Advances](#) are similar to Budgeting Loans except for people on Universal Credit.
 - [Universal Credit Advances](#) are for Universal Credit claimants waiting for their first payment
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Help for individuals and families from charities

These websites list many charities that help people in financial need. You can search them for charities that help people in various circumstances.

- [Charity Choice](#). Click 'Find a Charity' to search by circumstance or region
 - [Turn2us](#). Search for grants that provide financial support to people who need it
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Help during coronavirus

The Government and Newcastle City Council are providing various kinds of temporary and emergency help during coronavirus. This is described in these Newcastle City Council webpages:

- [Coronavirus information and advice](#)
 - [Coronavirus and benefits](#)
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Where can I get benefits advice?

It can be useful to speak with someone about the benefits you may be entitled to and how they may impact upon your other benefits. A local independent advice service can help guide you through the process such as;

- [Citizens Advice Newcastle](#)
- [Newcastle Welfare Rights Service](#) – have [self help material](#) on their website and a page on [debt and money advice](#)

Visit newcastle.gov.uk for more benefit advice services available across Newcastle.

Other Useful Information

- [Practical Help to Move Home](#)
- [Help with Heating Problems and How to Pay for Them](#)
- [Help with the Cost of Maintenance and Repairs](#)
- [Benefits](#)
- [Food Banks in Newcastle](#)
- [Free meals and cheap food in Newcastle](#)

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Useful Organisations

Newcastle Welfare Rights Service

Email: welfare.rights@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfare/rights

Telephone: 0191 277 2627

Community Health and Social Care Direct – Newcastle City Council

Email: scd@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care>

Telephone: 0191 278 8377

Address: CHSCD Newcastle City Council, NE4 9LU

Citizens Advice Newcastle (CAN)

Website: <http://citizensadvice-newcastle.org.uk>

Telephone: 0191 229 2750

Address: 4th Floor, City Library, NE1 8AX

Crisis Support Scheme

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/welfare-benefits/crisis-support>

Telephone: 0191 278 7878

Address: Civic Centre, NE1 8QA

Related Articles

[Winter Fuel Payments](#)

[Housing Benefit](#)

[State Pension](#)

[When someone dies: a practical guide](#)

[Help with heating problems and how to pay for them](#)

[How to pay for adaptations to your home](#)

[The practicalities of moving home](#)

[Cold Weather Payments](#)

[Universal Credit](#)

[Food banks and free emergency food in Newcastle](#)

[How to challenge a benefit decision](#)

[Bereavement Benefit](#)