

Covid Winter Grant

If you are in financial hardship due to the pandemic you may be eligible for support for food, utility bills, water bills for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, sewerage and sanitary purposes), or other related essentials

The COVID Winter Grant Scheme will run from 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021. You may make more than one claim during this timeframe depending upon your circumstances. The deadline for applications is 15 March 2021.

For further info on the grant and how to apply visit:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-support>

Call the Community Hub on 01635 503579 (The Community Support Hub is open during office hours between 8.30am and 5pm)

Heat the Homes Counties

In West Berkshire you may be eligible for a grant if your household income after tax, Council Tax and energy costs is less than £35,000 per year, or if someone in your household receives benefits.

Call: 01344 888 930

Visit: <https://www.heatthehomecounties.org.uk/apply-now> for more info.

Warm House Discount Scheme

You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2020 to 2021 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March.

You may qualify for the governments Warm House Discount Scheme if you:

- get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit - known as the 'core group'
- you're on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme - known as the 'broader group'

For more info see:

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

Call: 0800 731 0214

Winter Fuel Payments

If you were born on or before 5th October 1954 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills. You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment **automatically** if you are eligible and you get the State Pension or another social security benefit

Visit the gov.uk page to find out more:
<https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/eligibility>

Call: 0800 731 0160

Green Homes Grant

You may be able to apply for a grant of up to £10,000 towards the cost of making your home more energy efficient.

For details visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>

Call: 0300 131 0053

Cold Weather Payment

You may get a Cold Weather Payment if you're getting certain benefits or Support for Mortgage Interest. You do not need to apply. If you're eligible to get a Cold Weather Payment, you'll be paid it **automatically**.

You'll get a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below over 7 consecutive days.

Tell your pension centre or Jobcentre Plus office if you think you should have received a Cold Weather Payment but you have not.

For more info visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/eligibility>

Tax Relief

You may be able to claim tax relief for additional household costs if you have to work at home on a regular basis, either for all or part of the week. This includes if you have to work from home because of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For more info visit: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-relief-for-employees/working-at-home>

