

LATEST FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEWS

Discretionary funds

Telford and Wrekin Council have discretionary funds available through which they may be able to help the most vulnerable families in Telford and the Wrekin who have been affected by the pandemic and are struggling to pay for food and other essential bills. The LA have been granted an emergency fund (full title **Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies**) through Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs (DEFRA) as well as funding through DWP's own Winter Grant Scheme. See:

- Website: [Financial support and assistance on Telford Council website \(link is external\)](#)
- Website: [COVID-19: LA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies on GOV.UK \(link is external\)](#)
- Website: [New winter package Press Release on GOV.UK \(link is external\)](#)

Please note that this is limited funding, and once spent the LA will no longer be able to provide assistance from this grant funding, so families are asked not to delay making contact.

Winter Grant Scheme

A proportion of the Winter Grant Scheme funding will be used to support the families of children who would normally get a free school meal, or who have a 24U/Early Year Pupil Premium entitlement, with support for food through the Christmas break, Spring half-term 2021 and the Easter 2021 holidays. **This will be arranged via schools and nurseries**, with funding being transferred into their budgets to underwrite the costs.

The vast majority of school and early years settings will be distributing vouchers to be used at local supermarkets, though some schools may be making alternative local arrangements for their families. Schools and settings will be contacting and liaising with their families who qualify for support and any enquiries should be addressed directly to them.

All remaining money will work alongside the Emergency fund to help provide for a wide range of help for those most in need.

Please note that this is limited funding, and once it's spent the LA will no longer be able to provide assistance from this grant funding, so families should not delay their application.

Test and Trace support payment

The Test and Trace support payment has been announced in response to feedback that some residents were struggling to self-isolate due to financial constraints. It is to ensure that people on low incomes self-isolate when they test positive or are identified as a contact, and to encourage more people to get tested. This will help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and avoid further societal and economic restrictions, including local lockdowns.

Eligibility

Emergency Fund and Winter Grant Scheme

These are aimed at people in hardship and who are struggling to manage during the COVID-19 pandemic. A person does not need to be getting benefits in order to qualify, each application will be looked at on its merits and will take all circumstances into account, including any other money that the person might have available to help.

Test and Trace support payment

To help financially during their isolation period, Applicants on a low income may be entitled to a test and trace support payment of £500 if they:

- Have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace service, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, and
- Are employed or self-employed, and
- Are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, and
- Are currently receiving universal credit, working tax credit, income-based employment and support allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance.

Funding

DEFRA, DWP

Referral / Signposting Emergency Fund and Winter Grant Scheme

Applicants should wherever possible visit Telford and Wrekin Council website:
Website: [Emergency welfare crisis assistance on Telford and Wrekin Council website](#) (link is external)

If unable to access digital services to apply online, applicants can call:
Telephone: **01952 380 400**

Test and Trace support payment

Applicants should wherever possible visit Telford and Wrekin Council website:

Website: [COVID test and trace support payments on Telford and Wrekin Council website](#) (link is external)

If unable to access digital services to apply online, applicants can call:

Telephone: **01952 380 400**

Other Information

Telford and Wrekin Council's Financial Support and Assistance Guide is recommended reading for families struggling with reduced income and covers a range of Local Authority and DWP benefits and other support available.

See: [Telford and Wrekin Council Financial Support and Assistance Guide](#) (link is external)

For Winter Free School Meals, see [Telford and the Wrekin Winter Funding Free School Meals on council website](#)(link is external)

Families can also register to receive free Breakfast Parcels during term time for children in years 3-11 years in receipt of School Meals – this scheme now extended until the end of Easter 2021.

See [Weekly breakfast parcels for children and young people on council website](#)