

Household Support scheme

The Household Support scheme is available to residents of Blackburn with Darwen. The team can provide practical help and advice to support residents with the rising costs of food, energy and other household bills. Helping residents to consider ways to reduce outgoings and make your money go further.

Household support can;

- Help with food
- Help with Utility bills (Gas/Electric/Water) offering a 1 off payment (includes customers on pre-payment meters, direct debit payments and annual bill payers)
- Boiler servicing, repair and replacement in owner occupied homes* subject to assessment by a qualified gas heating engineer as part of the [Healthy Homes service](#).
- Advice and support to reduce outgoings and increase income
- Children's beds
- Support for sustainable impact on energy costs (insulating hot water tanks, fitting draft excluders, replacing inefficient lightbulbs)
- Purchasing White Goods (Fridge/Freezer/Cooker etc) **1 white good item per household** based on all applications received from the household since 1st December 2021.
- Digital access and Broadband advice
- Help to improve health and well-being

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Household Support Scheme, you can still complete the form and the Help Hub team will offer be able to advice or see [Self help additional support](#).

These include:

- Age UK
- BwD Healthy Living
- Rummage Rescuers
- Jubilee Tower Credit Union
- Care Network
- BwD Home Start
- BwD Carers Service
- Shelter
- Blackburn Foodbank & The Oaks
- BwD Community Centres
- Darwen Food Larder
- BwD Food Clubs

To see if you qualify for support, you will need to complete the online referral form.

You can self-refer or alternatively, you can be referred by a family member, friend, neighbour, professional, school, or a community group.

Awards under this scheme may be taxable, but will not be subject to National Insurance contributions. You must make your own enquiries to establish your tax

position, we will not take responsibility for your tax liabilities. We will make HMRC aware of all payments made to individuals.

Cost of living extra support

The Council is working with a number of local organisations, who can offer support.

Food support

If you are suffering hardship or struggling to make ends meet the Household Support Family Food Boxes are still available from the [Community and Business Partners organisation](#) To apply or to arrange collection, please email victoria@cbpartners.org

The Healthy Start scheme can help pregnant mums or if you have a child under 4 years old. [Further information on Healthy Start can be found on the GOV.UK website.](#)

Foodbank support and emergency food parcels and help are available in the borough via [Blackburn Foodbank](#) and [Darwen Food Larder](#). Referrals can be made in a few different ways.

Energy advice

With the rising cost of energy, there are a number of [government schemes and grants](#) available to help people with their fuel bills.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

The [Warm Home Discount scheme](#) will be expanded, so nearly 3 million low-income households will benefit from a £150 discount.

Winter Fuel Payment

The [Winter Fuel Payment](#) is a government grant for people born before 25 September 1956 to help pay their heating bills. Payments will vary depending on circumstance.

Cold Weather Payment

The [Cold Weather Payment](#) is automatically given to eligible households in areas where temperatures are recorded below 0 degrees for 7 consecutive days.

Other schemes

Some energy suppliers also run their own energy grants to provide financial aid for those who need it, you don't necessarily need to be their customer to take advantage.

Digital Access and Broadband

Contact your provider and ask about **Social Tariffs** to reduce broadband cost.

Devices, if on UC or employment based benefits ask your work coach at DWP.

Search the web for companies providing free data.

Bill Busters Project – Blackburn with Darwen Healthy Living

[BwD Healthy Living are supporting residents living in fuel debt](#) We are creating a sustainable holistic offer for residents, especially with the recent cost of living crisis and gas and electricity rising drastically this offer can make a big difference to people's lives. We know that cold homes can lead to ill health for people of all ages, exacerbating the health inequalities which many of our residents already face.

Residents can self-refer or be referred in by services. This can be done over the phone or by completing a simple form and sending it into our office electronically or by post.

For more information please contact our office on: 01254 292650 or e mail us on billbusters@bwdhl.org.uk