

This programme is funded by The West Yorkshire Mayors Office (WYCA) and is being administered by One Community.

The objective of The Fund is to provide crisis support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs enabling households to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials.

Although this is considered an extension to the previous WYCA Fund schemes, it is a new grant. Funds awarded cannot be carried over into the next financial year, for future usage.

Priority programmes of support

Energy bills and food bills may be of particular concern to low-income households during the period of The Fund we will prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy and food.

Up to £10,000 is available for organisations helping people, to provide Emergency Support to individuals/households.

The Fund can be used to support households with the cost of food and water bills, and essential costs related to energy (Vouchers for topping up gas and electricity, direct payments to utility suppliers on behalf of those needing support are also within the scope of the fund), food and water, and with wider essential costs. (Food vouchers, meals, and packs are within the scope of the fund).

- **Energy and water.** The Fund should primarily be used to support energy bills for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking, or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders. It can also be used to support water bills including for drinking, washing, cooking, as well as for sanitary purposes and sewerage.

- **Food.** The Fund can be used to provide support with food, whether in kind or through vouchers or cash.

- **Essentials linked to energy and water.** The Fund can be used to provide support with essentials linked to energy and water (for example period products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, the purchase of equipment such as fridges, freezers, ovens, slow cookers).

The Fund cannot be used to provide mortgage/rent support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund (such as energy, food, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.

Warm spaces up to £10,000 is available, for organisations to prevent people from reaching crisis by providing communal warm spaces to reduce domestic energy use.

These warm and welcoming spaces would offer residents somewhere to keep warm, and save money on heating, it is expected that organisations would provide activities, drinks, food, and support and in some cases, provide services like Wi-Fi.

Funding can be used to extend opening times or increase the facilities or provisions at existing community facilities.

Advice services. The fund can be used to provide mental health, employability, and debt advice.

Reporting and spending your grant

Organisations awarded funds will be required to have spent and distributed their support to households by March 22nd, 2024. You should give consideration as to how you will manage your spending and delivery as you will also need to have supplied your monitoring by March 22nd, 2024.

Evidence of expenditure on items purchased and other significant costs (i.e. invoices etc) to be provided upon request to OneCommunity. The invoices must indicate delivery took place during the grant period 01/12/23 – 22/03/24.

The One Community Foundation may at its absolute discretion (but acting reasonably) seek to recover some or any part of the grant if:

- (a) The money is not spent on the agreed purposes
- (b) that relates to stock or funds still held by groups at 22/03/24
- (c) performance data does not align with the proposal/as set out in the application
- (d) Monitoring and evaluation is not provided by 22/02/24.

The One Community Foundation shall be entitled to seek additional explanations or information if/as required.

You will be required to provide interim monitoring reports and a final collated report by March 22.03.2024. This report will ask you to confirm:

- Total Value of Awards Split by Household Composition

	a) Households with Children	b) Households with Pensioners	c) Households with a Disabled Person	d) Other Households	e) Total amounts provided to vulnerable Households
Spends (£s)					
Volumes					
Number of Households Helped					

- Total Value of Awards Split by Category

	a) Food Excluding FSM Support in the holidays	b) Free School Meals support in the holidays	c) Energy and Water	d) Essentials linked to Energy and Water	e) Wider essentials	f) Advice Services	h) Total amount provided to vulnerable households
Spends (£s)							
Volumes							
Number of Households Helped							

*Advice Services. Volume = Total number of hours advice was given.

When you apply:

You will need to upload the following to your application. Please note we do not require these documents if you have provided them before with the exception of a bank statement in the name of the organisation that is 3 months old or less.

If you have not applied before we will need

- Your governing document.
- Your latest published accounts or if you are a new/small group, please provide projections and/or cash flow.
- A bank statement (no older than 3 months) in your group's name, use your organisation's name exactly as it appears on your bank statement when completing this form, this will help us make any grant payment awarded to you using online banking.