

BURNLEY, PENDLE AND ROSSENDALE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT SCHEME (BPR EAGS)

Background

The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies is for local authorities in England to use to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to Covid-19. Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Councils have decided to develop a joint scheme for distribution of this fund in order to benefit from economy of scale and avoid a 'postcode lottery' situation, whereby applicants in one local authority area may do not receive significantly higher / lower assistance than in their neighbouring local authority area.

All aspects of the scheme will be subject to bi-monthly review.

Eligibility for the Fund

Applicants must:-

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be resident in Burnley, Pendle or Rossendale
- Be able to demonstrate that they struggling to afford food and / or other essentials due to Covid-19.
- not have any savings, access to other monies or affordable source of funding, or other means of accessing support

Please note, the scheme will only accept one application per household, across all three districts.

Applications

BPR CVS will provide opportunity for applications minimally on an 'online' basis.

In order to maximise uptake of the scheme, a wide number of agencies (and community hubs) will be able to refer to the scheme, including people being able to self-refer

Processing Applications

BPR CVS will provide an initial response to applications within a 2 working day timeframe. Decisions on whether to award will vary according to complexity.

It is accepted that applicants may have widely different circumstances affecting them and as such, BPR CVS are able to show considerable discretion in determining whether a person meets the criteria for an award, and if so, the level of award to be offered.

Awards

A maximum award of £100 for food and £200 for essential items can be offered through this scheme

Food

- Any applicant deemed eligible for an award of food will be offered the maximum of an equivalent of £100 worth of food
- Where such an award is to be made, BPR CVS will make a referral to the designated 'food provider' in each of the districts to contact the applicant and make arrangements to pass over £100 of food

If the applicant feels they need more food than what is being offered, they would need to apply to their local foodbanks for ongoing assistance

Essential items (inc heating bills)

- Any applicant deemed eligible for an award for essential items, will receive an award up to a maximum of £200. The actual amount awarded will be at the discretion of BPR CVS on a case by case basis.
- It is anticipated that wherever possible, any awards will be made via
 - Direct payment to a supplier of goods
 - Vouchers direct to the applicant
- Payments in cash (whether direct to bank accounts / or cash in hand), should be avoided unless there are no other viable ways of providing an award to an applicant