

DFC Support Schemes and Funding

Warm, Well and Connected

People in extreme need can get through this scheme £50 electric / £49 gas top up / 300 litres of oil.

Other avenues of support should be explored before applying to Warm, Well and Connected. For example, if you are in a crisis situation and need emergency help or support with living expenses then you should check if you are eligible to apply for Discretionary Support (see information below).

For more information: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-practical-support-individuals>

Warm, Well and Connected Grant community and voluntary groups (CWSAN + COSTA)

The Warm, Well and Connected (WWC) programme can assist you reach out to communities to help people that have been acutely affected by COVID 19. We are asking your group to help identify what jointly we can do for those most vulnerable in your community to stay Warm, Well and Connected.

The targeted groups range from children right through to older people and the themes are **physical activity, mental health, nutrition and tackling Isolation**. If you are thinking of running any activities for these groups and themes between now and 31st March 2021 (only those activities that are permissible under relevant Government Covid 19 restrictions at the time your project is scheduled for).

Telephone Seamus: 07591 707621

Email: wwc@cwsan.org

Cold Weather Payments

In recognition of the cold weather and increased costs associated with heating a home the Department also has in place its Cold Weather Payment. This payment is triggered as a result of Cold Weather and is paid automatically to those who are in receipt of a qualifying benefit and live in a postcode area where the temperature is, or forecast to be, zero degrees or below for seven consecutive days.

People can find out more and check if their postcode is in an area due to receive payments triggered by cold weather by going to nidirect.

For more information: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/cold-weather-payment-checker?postcode=BT71&op=Search>

Annual Winter Fuel Payments

In addition to this support you will already be aware of the Annual Winter Fuel Payments made to those people over the age of 65 and these have been and continue to be issued in the normal way. These payments are non COVID related payments.

For more information: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/winter-fuel-payment>

COVID-19 Heating Payment

The Department has put in place a one-off heating payment for those people who are in receipt of Pension Credit, or are in receipt of certain disability benefits (at the higher rates) in recognition of additional costs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is important, if you think you are eligible but have not received your payment by 15 February 2021, that you **report this before 30 April 2021**.

If you think you are eligible and have not received a payment by 15 February 2021 please contact the relevant office below:

Pension Credit	0800 587 0892
Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance	0800 587 0912
Personal Independence Payment	0800 587 0932

Telephone: 02879 396 124

For more information: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-and-benefits>

Discretionary Support

A person who is in an extreme, exceptional or crisis situation can apply for assistance from the Discretionary Support. A person will make their application to Discretionary Support and taking account of the personal circumstances a decision maker may make an award in the form of an interest free loan or non-repayable grant.

Telephone: 0800 587 2750

To apply online: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/claim-discretionary-support>

Discretionary Support self-isolation grant

A non-repayable Discretionary Support self-isolation grant may be available to a person or any member of their immediate family who has either been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to self-isolate in accordance with the latest guidance published by the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being.

Telephone: 0800 587 2750

Universal Credit Contingency Fund Short-term Living Expenses Grant

A Universal Credit Contingency Fund payment is a non-repayable grant. It may be available to people normally within the first Universal Credit assessment period following a new application to Universal Credit and who are continuing to experience financial difficulties.

Telephone: 0800 587 2750

For more information on discretionary support, discretionary support self-isolation grant and universal credit contingency fund short-term living expenses grant please visit: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/extra-financial-support#toc-2>

COVID -19 Community Helpline

- freephone: 0808 802 0020
- email: covid19@adviceni.net
- text: ACTION to 81025
- complete a form on the Advice NI Website-
<https://www.adviceni.net/eform/submit/covid-support-referral>

Make the Call

This service provides an individual benefit, service and support check

Telephone: 0800 232 1271

For more information: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/unclaimed-benefits>

Advice NI

This free service offers free, independent, high quality advice on issues from benefits and debt to housing and employment.

Telephone: 0800 915 4604

Email: advice@adviceni.net

Local Advice Service

Mid Ulster Advice Services (MIDAS)

MIDAS is an integrated local advice service delivered across Mid Ulster to those in need. It is free, confidential, independent and provided by qualified, experienced and empathetic advisors.

Dungannon:

028 8775 0211

Cookstown:

028 8676 1875

Magherafelt:

028 7963 3079