

**GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR THE
'COST OF LIVING CRISIS' NOW
TOTALLING OVER £37 BILLION**

**THIS MEANS THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE
EIGHT MILLION MOST VULNERABLE
HOUSEHOLDS, WILL RECEIVE £1,200 OF
ONE-OFF SUPPORT TO HELP WITH THE
COST OF LIVING, WITH ALL DOMESTIC
ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS RECEIVING
AT LEAST £400.**

Cost of
living
crisis

Energy Bills Support Scheme doubled to a one-off £400 grant

- Households will get £400 of support with their energy bills through an expansion of the Energy Bills Support Scheme. There is a £400 fuel discount being applied to **all** households, with no means-test. This will be paid or credited in 6 roughly equal monthly payments from October onwards. The Government expects that landlords will share this support where they have a tenant or lodger who pays a fixed amount for fuel in their rent. No guidance is given as to how, and there is no legislation to ensure it happens
- As well as doubling the £200 of support announced earlier this year, the full £400 payment will now be made as a grant, which will not be recovered through higher bills in future years.
- Energy suppliers will deliver this support to households with a domestic electricity meter. Direct debit and credit customers will have the money credited to their account, while customers with pre-payment meters will have the money applied to their meter or paid via a voucher. This support will apply directly for households in England, Scotland, and Wales.
- This support is in addition to the £150 Council Tax rebate for households in England in Council Tax bands A-D. People in properties in Council Tax Bands A-D got £150 in May/June, towards fuel bills. For people in Bands E and above, residents will have to approach H&F in order for Revenues to use their discretionary scheme in cases of hardship.

More than 8 million households on means tested benefits will receive a payment of £650 , paid in two instalments. The first from July of £326 and the second in the autumn of £324.

Payments from HMRC for those on tax credits only will follow shortly after each to avoid duplicate payments. This includes all households receiving the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit

It excludes those in low-paid work who don't qualify for universal credit, pensioners above the pension credit threshold and some people only getting Contribution-based ESA due to previous employment.

**£650 one-off
Cost of Living
Payment for
those on means
tested benefits:**

Qualifying for £650 payment

To qualify for the first Cost of Living Payment, you must have been entitled to a payment (or later found to be entitled to a payment) of the means tested benefit:

- Universal Credit for an assessment period that ended in the period of 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022 , income-based JSA, income-related ESA, Income Support or State Pension Credit for any day in the period of 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022
- For recipients of tax credits: To get the first payment, you must have received a payment, or an annual award of at least £26, of tax credits on any day in the period 26 April 2022 to 25 May 2022.
- This payment will be tax-free, will not count towards the benefit cap, and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards.
- The government will make these payments directly to households across the UK.

One-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment

- Everyone aged 66 or over will receive a £300 Winter Fuel Payment in November/December, on top of the normal £200 WFP. There is no means-test.
- Pensioners are disproportionately impacted by higher energy costs, and many low-income pensioner households do not claim the means tested benefits they are entitled to.
- This additional one-off payment will go to the over 8 million pensioner households across the UK who receive the Winter Fuel Payment and will be paid on top of any other one-off support a pensioner household is entitled to, for example where they are on pension credit or receive disability benefits. Eligible households currently receive between £200 - £300, so the payment will represent at least double the support for this winter.
- The Winter Fuel Payment (including the extra Pensioner Cost of Living Payment) is not taxable and does not affect eligibility for other benefits.
- People will be eligible for this payment if they are over State Pension age (aged 66 or above) between 19 – 25 September 2022. There are certain circumstances where an individual above State Pension age does not qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment [<https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/eligibility>]
- The government will make these payments directly to households across the UK.

There is a £150 cost of living payment due in September to anyone who was in receipt of a disability benefit e.g. PIP/DLA/AA by May 25th. There is no means-test involved. Around six million people across the UK will be eligible.

- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Attendance Allowance
- Scottish Disability Benefits
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- War Pension Mobility Supplement
- People with disabilities may face a wide range of additional costs, such as specialist equipment, specialist food, and increased transport costs, and this payment will help with these costs as they are likely to have increased.
- this £150 will be paid in addition to the £650 and will be paid separately.
- These payments will be exempt from tax, will not count towards the benefit cap, and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards.
- The government will make these payments directly to eligible people across the UK.

£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment

£500m increase and extension of Household Support Fund

To support people who need additional help, the Government is providing an extra £500 million of local support, via the Household Support Fund, which will be extended from this October to March 2023.

- The Household Support Fund helps those in most need with payments towards the rising cost of food, energy, and water bills.
- The government will issue additional guidance to Local Authorities to ensure support is targeted towards those most in need of support, including those not eligible for the Cost of Living Payments set out on 26 May 2022.
- This brings the total amount provided through the Household Support Fund to £1.5 billion since October 2021.
- The Household Support Fund is administered by local councils in England and further information will be available directly from them. Eligibility will be determined by individual councils.