

Household Support Fund Cost of Living Payment Scheme Policy September 2023

Purpose

The Household Support Fund Cost of Living Payment (HSFCOL) scheme provides eligible households with a payment of £120.

Overview

Households in Portsmouth can apply for one HSFCOL between 25 September and 24 November 2023, unless the scheme closes sooner because all of the available funding has been distributed. The application will request information and supporting evidence to confirm the household's eligibility.

Eligibility

To be eligible for HSFCOL, a household¹ must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Resident in Portsmouth City Council's area (PO1 - PO6);
2. Have recourse to public funds²;
3. In one of the qualifying income groups listed below;
4. Have submitted a complete application and provided all requested evidence of circumstances before the scheme closes.

Qualifying income groups

Households can qualify for HSFCOL by meeting either of the qualifying income criteria below:

1. Currently receiving Housing Benefit and no other means-tested income benefit (Universal Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit), **OR**;
2. Receiving Universal Credit or Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit), with the claim starting on 26/09/22 or later.

Exclusions

HSFCOL has a limited amount of funding, and the scheme will close when the funding is used up. Any applications received after the scheme closes will not be eligible for a payment.

¹ A household is defined as a 'benefit unit', which is a single partner or jointly resident couple, and any child or qualifying young person, for whom they are responsible.

² <https://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/information-and-resources/rights-and-entitlements/immigration-status-and-entitlements/who-has-recourse-to-public-funds>