



**SOMERSET**  
County Council

# The Somerset Household Support Fund

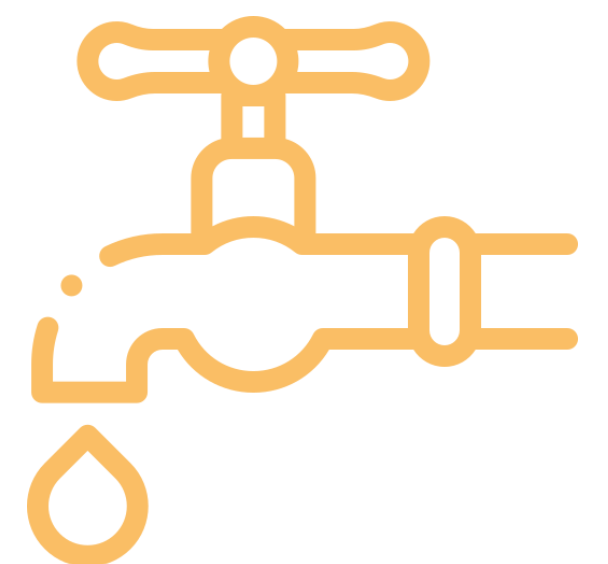
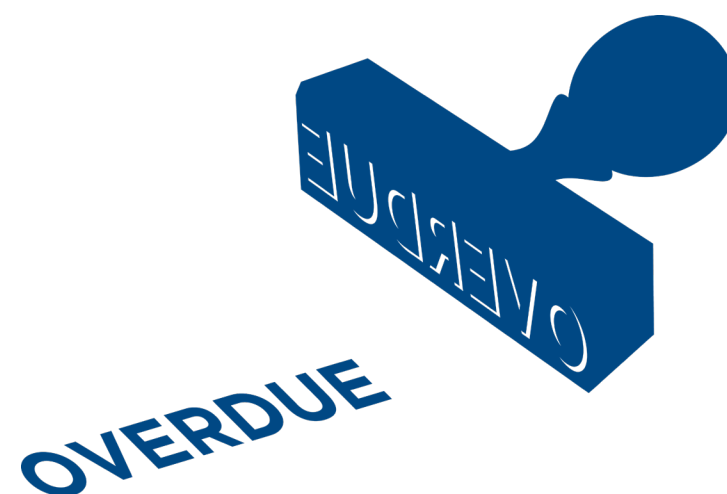
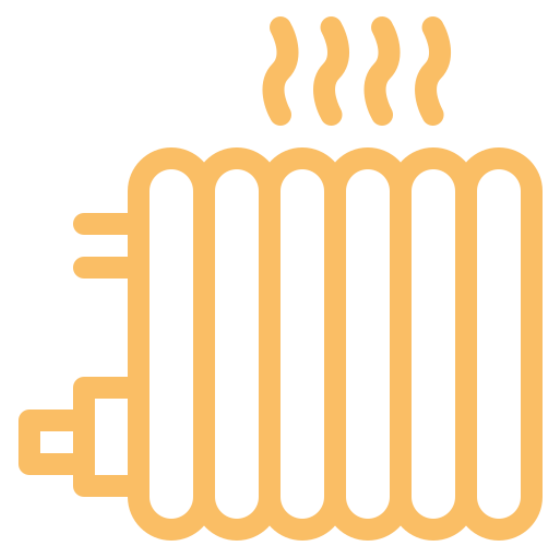


**The Somerset Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term financial support (from December – end March 2022) to vulnerable households which are struggling to afford the cost of food, gas, electricity, oil and water bills and other essential costs.**

The scheme is funded by the DWP and administered by Somerset County Council. The fund is being distributed by Citizens Advice in Somerset which are assisting the County Council.

# Who can apply?

- You must live in the County of Somerset
- You will be over the age of 16 and living independently of parents/carers
- You are struggling to pay for essentials because you don't have enough money to pay for them
- You can provide the required proof of your identity; Somerset residency and either proof of your benefits OR proof of your income (the most recent, last month's, bank statement)





**Can I get help if I go to work or if I am retired, or if I don't work at all?**

Yes, there will be many different reasons why it has become difficult to pay for essentials. The key thing is that you and your household are struggling to pay for 'essentials'.



**Will a Household Support Fund affect my benefits?**

No, it will not affect your benefits.

# How do I apply?

You apply through a dedicated and secure web portal. Scan the QR code or click on the link below:



[hsf.citizensadvicesomerset.org.uk](https://hsf.citizensadvicesomerset.org.uk)



# **What if I can't apply through the website?**

If this is difficult for you there are lots of community groups, village agents, health coaches and other support organisations that know about this fund and will be able to assist you to apply through the web portal.



# **If you don't have any support and need help to apply**

Please call Somerset County Council on **0300 790 6275**. The Somerset County Council team will pass your contact details to your nearest Citizens Advice office who will help you make an application.



# **How long does it take to make an application?**

Citizens Advice will process completed applications within 5 working days.

Incomplete applications will not be processed until all the evidence required has been provided.

# Fraudulent Claims

Where Somerset County Council suspects that fraud may have occurred it will investigate the matter as appropriate and this may lead to criminal proceedings.

If a claimant attempts to claim an award from the Household Support Fund by making a false declaration or providing false evidence they may have committed an offence under the Theft Act 1968.



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