

York Financial Assistance Scheme (YFAS) Emergency Assistance & Community Assistance

YFAS is provided by City of York Council to support people who are in need.

Emergency Assistance helps people following an emergency or unforeseen event.

Community Assistance supports vulnerable adults to move into or remain in the community. Apply online www.york.gov.uk or ring 01904 551550.

Help with paying rent is available through Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) and support for customers having difficulties in paying their Council Tax is available through Council Tax Support. Apply online www.york.gov.uk or ring 01904 552044.

This factsheet is about **Emergency Assistance** and **Community Assistance ONLY**.

Who can the scheme help?

The scheme supports people who need urgent help, following an emergency or unforeseen event, and supports vulnerable adults to move into or remain in the community. It is means tested and you must have no other form of help. An award is not guaranteed.

Community and Emergency Assistance is awarded in the form of goods, vouchers or services. Cash is only available in exceptional circumstances.

The scheme is open to all York residents. We are treating applications to YFAS from those affected by Coronavirus as being made as a result of a disaster. Applications will be accepted from anyone York residents and our usual annual income rules will not apply. Applications will be considered by looking at your individual financial circumstances.

Emergency Assistance

Emergency Assistance provides help to cover immediate short-term needs.

Applications will be considered for:

- Food vouchers or fuel costs
- Exceptional travel expenses to attend the funeral of a close relative or visiting a relative in hospital who has suddenly been taken ill or whose condition suddenly deteriorates
- Loss of possessions or property following a disaster, an event of great or sudden misfortune which normally results in significant damage to, destruction or loss of, possessions or property and your losses are not covered by insurance. A disaster could be: flooding, gas explosion, chemical leak or a fire

If your DWP benefit has been sanctioned (stopped/ reduced) and are challenging the decision by a reconsideration or appeal, you will be eligible to apply for emergency food vouchers and fuel top ups.

Essential clothing may be provided if you have been released from prison, fled domestic abuse and had to leave your clothes behind, or you have secured accommodation after being street homeless.

School clothing is covered by another council scheme:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolUniforms>.

Community Assistance

Community Assistance supports vulnerable people to move into or remain in the community. It is means tested and you must have no other form of help. Vulnerable people could include:

- Carers
- People who are experiencing greater than the normal range of pressures experienced by most people or there has been a significant unfortunate event that makes their situation extraordinary
- People moving out of institutional, residential care, or supported accommodation into the community
- People setting up home as part of a planned programme of resettlement
- Young people leaving care
- Ex- offenders leaving prison or detention centres
- People with learning or physical disabilities
- People with mental health problems
- People who have a drug or alcohol dependency
- Homeless people, rough sleepers or those at risk of homelessness, or
- People facing or fleeing domestic abuse

Community Assistance provides help with basic necessities. Applications can be considered for:

- Beds
- Cookers, fridges and washing machines (property must have existing connection)
- Basic furniture – for example, a wardrobe or sofa
- Essential repairs
- Other items on the basis of need, for example, a vacuum cleaner because the applicant is asthmatic

We will provide goods, vouchers or services. Goods will be delivered to your home, in the room they have been purchased for. Cookers and washing machines will be installed. Cash awards are not payable other than in exceptional circumstances.

Community Assistance is available for:

- York residents over 16 years of age, who have recourse to public funds
- And**
- Who are facing or fleeing domestic abuse

Or people receiving one of these benefits:

- Housing Benefit and/or Local Council Tax Support
- Universal Credit
- Income Support, or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related),
- Pension Credit,
- A payment on account of one of them

Or in the following circumstances:

- You are applying for one of the benefits above on leaving an institution or residential accommodation
- Your DWP benefit has been sanctioned and you are challenging this formally
- Your home is affected by a disaster or emergency
- You have an income of less than £15,103.40 per year

Exception to eligibility

If you are applying following a disaster and your income is above the £15,103.40, assessment will be based on your individual financial circumstances and your application will be considered on its own merits.