



Further information: Crisis and Resilience Fund

From 1 April, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has introduced the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which will run until 31 March 2029.

The CRF brings together local support for households experiencing financial difficulty, combining **immediate crisis help where needed with longer-term support to build stability and resilience.**

This replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF), which ended on 31 March 2026.

One of the impacts of this change is that people will no longer receive free school meal vouchers during school holidays.

About the support

The CRF is designed to provide a balanced approach:

- **Short-term crisis support** for **urgent and unexpected need**
- **Ongoing resilience support** to help households stabilise and reduce the risk of future crisis

The aim is to support people not only in the moment of difficulty, but also to help strengthen financial independence and longer-term wellbeing.

What support may include

Depending on your circumstances, support may involve:

- Immediate help with essential food or household items in a crisis
- Short-term financial assistance following an unexpected change in circumstances
- Support to stabilise household finances and reduce ongoing pressure
- Access to advice, guidance, and local services that build longer-term resilience

How support will be delivered

Support will be delivered locally through established council and community arrangements.

When you make contact, you will need to provide information regarding:

- your immediate need, and
- any longer-term support that you may need to help prevent future difficulties

Where appropriate, support provided may include a combination of direct assistance and connection to local resilience-building services.

Accessing support

Schemes will be operated on an application basis. Rossendale Borough Council will adopt a needs-based approach with payments possible for individuals who have experienced financial shock. A financial shock is a sudden, unexpected expense or drop in income.

Our crisis payment scheme can be accessed through the Rossendale Borough Council Website (phone assistance is available). If you are already working with a professional (such as a Family Hub, school, health visitor, or Early Years practitioner, Social Prescriber or other similar organisation), they can also support you to access CRF assistance and related services.

Payments are available to meet occasional or short-term needs but will not provide an alternative source of regular income (as was the case with school meal vouchers).

Direct applications for larger costs, including white goods will require a referral to Citizens Advice before they can be approved so that applicants can be helped with debt, benefits and budget management. Referred applications for larger items will be dealt with through the referral organisation.

If you are already working with a professional (such as a Family Hub, school, health visitor, or Early Years practitioner), they can also support you to access CRF assistance and related services.