

SOMERSET
County Council

Struggling with bills?
Support is available...

The Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term urgent financial help to Somerset residents who are struggling to afford household essentials such as buying food, paying for energy and water bills and other essential household items such as beds and white goods.

To apply, you must

- Live in the County of Somerset
- Be over the age of 16 and living independently of parents/carers
- Not have sufficient money to pay for essentials
- Provide proof of your identity:
  - Provide a document showing your Somerset address
  - Provide proof of income (most recent bank statement)

You can apply if you:

- Are temporarily out of work
- Are unable to work due to illness
- Are long term unemployed and unable to retrain due to multiple reasons such as poor health
- Have a chronic illness
- Have a severe learning or physical disability that affects your day-to-day life
- Are in receipt of pension credit
- Currently use a mental health service, or a member of your household does
- Are a Carer
- Are Pregnant
- Have a child that requires a specialist diet
- Have a child with a chronic illness
- Have a child with a severe learning or physical disability that affects their day-to-day life
- Are or have been a child in care (Child Looked After)
- Are a Care Leaver
- Receive support from Somerset County Council Social Care
- Are fleeing domestic abuse
- Are homeless and have been placed in temporary accommodation
- Are a Foster Carer, Kinship Carer or Special Guardian who cares for a Somerset child and can demonstrate a need for immediate or short-term support, which could not be reasonably paid for from any allowance you may receive
- You or your family currently have a Social Worker and are on a Child in Need Plan or on a Child Protection Plan

You are unable to apply if you have savings over the value of £2,000

Examples of what the Household Support Fund can pay for:

- Supermarket food vouchers
- Standard Divan Beds and Mattresses
- Energy Top Up Vouchers (for use with pre-payment meters)
- White goods
- Essentials such as basic clothing, non branded school uniform and baby items

The fund will not cover:

- Debt repayments
- Cash payments
- Rent or Housing Costs
- Phone bills
- Non-urgent items such as televisions and some furniture

Can I get help if I go to work or if I am retired, or if I do not work at all?

Yes, provided you can show that you are struggling to pay for essentials.

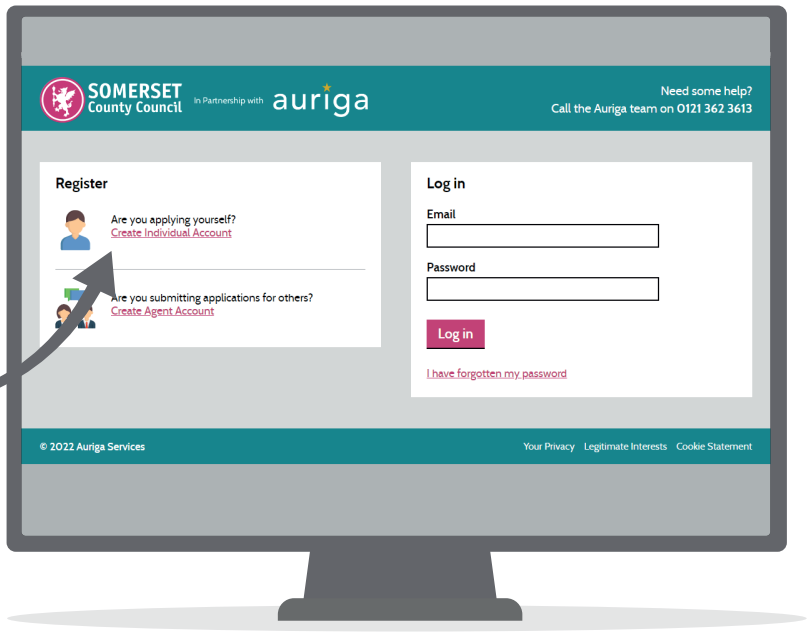
Will a Household Support Fund affect my benefits?

No, it will not affect your benefits.

How do I apply?

Register on the Auriga portal
Visit: bit.ly/SupportFund22

To create an account select ‘Create Individual Account’



What happens next?

The application will be reviewed by the Household Support Fund who will let you know what will be provided and how you will receive this.
The Household Support Fund aim to review all requests for:

- Food/utility top up vouchers within 2 working days
- White goods/beds/other within 5 working days (please note white goods & beds can take 2 weeks or more to be delivered dependent on stock availability)

If you have problems registering or logging on please contact Auriga either by:

Email: somerset@aurigaservices.co.uk
Telephone: 0121 362 3613

If you don’t have any support and need help to apply

Please phone Somerset County Council on 0300 123 2224. Somerset County Council will help you find an organisation who will help you make an application.

Fraudulent Claims

Where Somerset County Council suspects that fraud may have occurred, it will investigate the matter as appropriate, 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 office under the Theft Act 1968.