



## **Alternative Sources of Assistance**

This leaflet contains information regarding other organisations that may be able to help you if you are in need of assistance with food, gas and electricity and/or goods and are not eligible under the welfare grant scheme.

### **Help with Food, Gas and Electricity**

#### **Food Banks**

If you need short term assistance with food, you may be able to obtain help from your local food bank. Please ask at your local One Stop Shop for further information regarding this scheme.

#### **St. Monica's Trust**

If you have a physical disability or long-term physical health problem, live in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset or Bath and North East Somerset, have a low income and limited savings and are over 40 years of age, then you may be eligible for a short-term grant from St. Monica's Trust.

You can download an application form at: [www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/supporting-communities/community-fund](http://www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/supporting-communities/community-fund) or alternatively you can contact them by telephone on 01179494003.

#### **Warm Home Discount Scheme**

For those on low-income or Guaranteed Credit element of Pension Credit.

Eligible applicants will receive a one off £140 payment towards their electricity bill to cover the winter months from September-March.

Applications should be made directly to their energy provider.

Payment is made directly to the supplier and can be for both pre-paid and direct debit customers. Customers can re-apply annually.

The list of participating energy providers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/energy-suppliers>

Further information about the scheme and eligibility criteria is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/low-income>



### British Gas Energy Trust

The British Gas Energy Trust provides financial support to individuals and families who are struggling to pay off their gas and/or electricity debts. You do not have to be a British Gas customer to benefit from this scheme.

The easiest way to apply for a grant is online at:

<https://www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/Home/HowCanWeHelp>. The website also provides a search facility where you can find details of your nearest local adviser who can help and advise you on completing an application.

Please note that other energy companies such as Npower, OVO, E.on, EDF and SSE (Southern Electric) all have their own individual energy funds. However these Funds are only available to the company's customers.

### Let's Talk

The website, "Let's Talk" offers information regarding the various grants and benefits that are available to support those struggling with household energy debt. This website is located at: <https://www.lets-talk.online/AllSchemes.html>

## **Help with Goods**

### Bristol Charities

Bristol Charities help people in need, hardship or distress, those suffering from ill health and carers who have limited means. If you live within 10 miles of Bristol City Centre then you may be eligible to apply for funding for goods including white goods (washing machines, fridges/freezers, electric cookers), small electrical equipment (vacuums and microwaves), carpets, furniture and other support.

Applications need to be made online by a sponsor who is usually a professional such as a social worker, support worker, health professional or similar support agency.

<https://www.bristolcharities.org.uk/grants>

### Gloucestershire Society

The Gloucestershire Society can provide grants of money to people in difficulty, usually up to approximately £150. You must have been a resident within Gloucestershire (defined as Bristol north of the river Avon, South Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire) for a minimum of two years, and have a recognised need.

The recognised need would usually be where an applicant is in need of money for things like basic furniture and bedding, for a cooker repair, for an item to care for a child or keep them safe.

You would need to apply through an agency, for example via a Support Worker.



### Gloucester Charities Trust

Gloucestershire Charities Trust can help those in need, hardship or distress who are resident within the county of Gloucestershire. They can help with things like furniture and carpets; specialist equipment to people with particular health issues; starter packs for homeless people going into temporary accommodation; and with items like cooking utensils, crockery and bedding.

Applications must be made through case / support or social workers, and one application can be made for each family unit / household in a 12 month period. It is not permissible for different household members to apply separately.

### Buttle UK

This organisation provides small grants for items such as beds and bedding, cookers, washing machines and fridge freezers, kitchen equipment and baby equipment to young people aged 20 or under who live independently with little or no support from their family, and to children or young persons in a family.

Applications must be made by a support worker and can be made online.

<https://www.buttleuk.org/need-support>

### St. Monica's Trust

If you have a physical disability or long-term physical health problem, live in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset or Bath and North East Somerset, have a low income and limited savings and are over 40 years of age, then you may be eligible for a gift of an amount of money from St. Monica's Trust. Gifts are intended to help with items such as disability related items or adaptations, domestic applications (for example washing machines or cookers) and furniture and flooring.

You can download an application form at: [www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/supporting-communities/community-fund](http://www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/supporting-communities/community-fund) or alternatively you can contact them by telephone on 01179494003.

### Glasspool Trust

This charity makes small grants to individuals in need, to help them over a short term crisis. The type of items awarded may include items such as white goods (such as a cooker, washing machine or fridge/freezer), beds and bedding, essential household items, clothing and baby needs, amongst others.

Please note that applications to this charity must be made by an organisation such as a charity or the Citizens Advice Bureau.

<http://www.glasspool.org.uk/>



### The Talisman Trust

The fund assists individuals in the UK who the trust consider as “going short”. Please note that applications must be made by the Citizens Advice Bureau, a social worker or another charitable organisation that is supporting you.

<http://www.talismancharity.org/>

### **Other charities / assistance available**

#### Baby Bank Network

This is a charity that can take referrals through agencies and organisations that are in contact with vulnerable families to make sure that they are provided with items to ensure their babies’ basic needs are met.

#### Turn 2 Us

To find further information about other funds that are available to you in your area you may wish to carry out a grants search. This can be completed on the Turn2Us website: <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

#### Sure Start Maternity Grant

This is a one off payment of £500 to help towards the costs of having a child.

You usually qualify for the grant if both of the following apply:

- you’re expecting your first child, or you’re expecting a multiple birth (such as twins) and have children already
- you or your partner already get certain benefits

You must claim the grant within 11 weeks of the baby’s due date or within 6 months of the baby’s birth. You do not have to pay the grant back and it will not affect your other benefits or tax credits. For more information please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant>

### **Affordable Sources for Purchasing Items**

#### Salvation Army Shop Filton (31-39 Gloucester Road North)

This shop sells items including furniture, household items, clothing, books and toys. Opening times are 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday – Saturday. Delivery of items bought is offered.

#### Kingswood Furniture Project (Kingsgate House, BS15 4AU)



This shop sells second hand furniture for affordable prices. Opening times are 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday – Friday. Free delivery of items is offered within South Gloucestershire.

The Reuse Shop (Thornbury Sort It Centre. BS35 3UT)

This shop sells reusable items that have been brought to the Sort It Centre, such as furniture, bikes, crockery etc. Opening times are 8.30am – 1.00pm; 1.30pm – 4.15pm, Monday – Sunday.

The Compass Project

The Compass Project shops sell second hand goods, vintage clothes and used furniture. There are two locations;

Gloucester Road Store, 361-363 Gloucester Road (Goods, clothes and furniture); opening times are 9.30am – 5.30pm Monday – Saturday.

Staple Hill Store, 58a-60 Broad Street (Second hand furniture); opening times are 9.30am – 5.00pm Monday – Sunday.