

The Discretionary Assistance Fund in Wales

The Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) in Wales replaces parts of the Social Fund previously run by DWP which you may have known as 'crisis loans' or 'community care grants'. The fund offers grant payments or support for two purposes:

- **Emergency Assistance Payments** to provide you with help in an emergency or when there is an immediate threat to your, or someone in your family's health or wellbeing
- **Individual Assistance Payments** to help you, or someone you care for, to live independently in the community and prevent the need for institutional care.

You can apply for a DAF payment if you do not have any other means of paying for what you need. They are to meet one-off costs rather than on-going expenses.

Emergency Assistance Payments

Emergency Assistance Payments (EAP) are to help with essential costs after an emergency or if you have experienced a disaster, e.g. there has been a fire or flood in your home.

The level of support you may be offered will be determined by the needs presented on the application and will be dependent on your current circumstances. You must prove in your application that by not getting the help you are asking for will put either you or your family's health or wellbeing at risk, or serious damage may occur to your home.

You can only be awarded up to three EAP grants within a rolling 12 month period for general living costs. Any previous applications made by you will also be taken into account in determining whether support will be granted.

Am I Eligible for an Emergency Assistance Payment?

You may be eligible for an EAP if you:

- Are aged 16 or over
- Don't have any money to meet you (or your family's) immediate needs after an emergency or a disaster
- Think there will be serious damage or risk to you (or your family's) health and safety without the EAP grant
- Don't have any other means of getting the help you need as you have no other money or means of getting money

What can I apply for under EAP?

- Money or goods to replace items that have been stolen, damaged or destroyed as a result of an emergency or a disaster
- General living expenses to help you cover meeting your day to day living costs - for example, food, essential heating costs, nappies or toiletries
- General living expenses to help you buy essential items following an emergency or disaster
- Emergency travel expenses if you are stranded away from home and don't have any other way of getting home.

Individual Assistance Payments

Individual Assistance Payments (IAP) are to help vulnerable people live as independent a life as possible in the community. The level of support offered will depend on the needs demonstrated in your application and your current circumstances including whether you have any savings or access to other money. You can apply for an award for yourself or your family, or for someone that you care for, or intend to care.

Am I eligible for an Individual Assistance Payment?

To be eligible for an IAP, you, or the person you care for must be getting on of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- Pension Credit
- Or, payment on account of one of them.

One of the following must also apply to you, or the person you care for:

- Are leaving an institution within the next 6 weeks after having lived there for 3 consecutive months or more, or on a frequent and regular basis due to disability or circumstances. Examples of eligible accommodation include hospitals, care homes, homes and hostels, or prisons and detention centres (for custodial elements of a sentence).
- If you plan to care for someone leaving such accommodation and neither you nor they have any other means of meeting their needs, you may be eligible to apply for an IAP award
- Need help to stop you, or the person you care for from being admitted to an institution

- Need help as part of a planned resettlement either after a period of homelessness, or if you are a young person leaving supported accommodation.
- Need help to ease exceptional and urgent pressures currently experienced by you and your family, e.g. as a result of experiencing domestic violence or increased needs of a family member due to disability, chronic illness, or an accident.
- Need help with one-off or short term travelling expenses when deemed essential to support you to continue to live independently in your community.

You cannot apply for an IAP for the same items or services which you have previously applied for within the last 28 days unless there has been a relevant change in your circumstances or you have experienced a disaster or emergency.

You may not be eligible for an IAP, or the amount you are awarded may be reduced if you or your partner have any savings or capital totalling over £500 (or £1000 if you or your partner is of pensionable age). If you are a prisoner any grant awarded may be reduced by the value of any discharge grant or warrants made.

How to apply for an EAP or an IAP

To apply for either an EAP or an IAP you can:

- Call the freephone number – 0800 859 5924 - which is free from landlines or alternatively call 033 0101 5000 which is charged at a local rate.
- Access the online application at: https://www.northgate-nes.co.uk/pls/pswall/call_initial_apex_page.nes_selfsrv?service=NSF&la=WALES
- Submit a postal application sent to:

Discretionary Assistance Fund,
PO Box 2377,
WREXHAM,
LL11 0LG

Postal application forms can be found at:

<http://www.moneymadeclearwales.org/>-
<http://www.moneymadeclearwales.org/index.php?pageID=3&lng=cym>

- Ask someone to help you apply, such as your local advice service, Council or your support worker