

Household Resilience Services Grant Policy

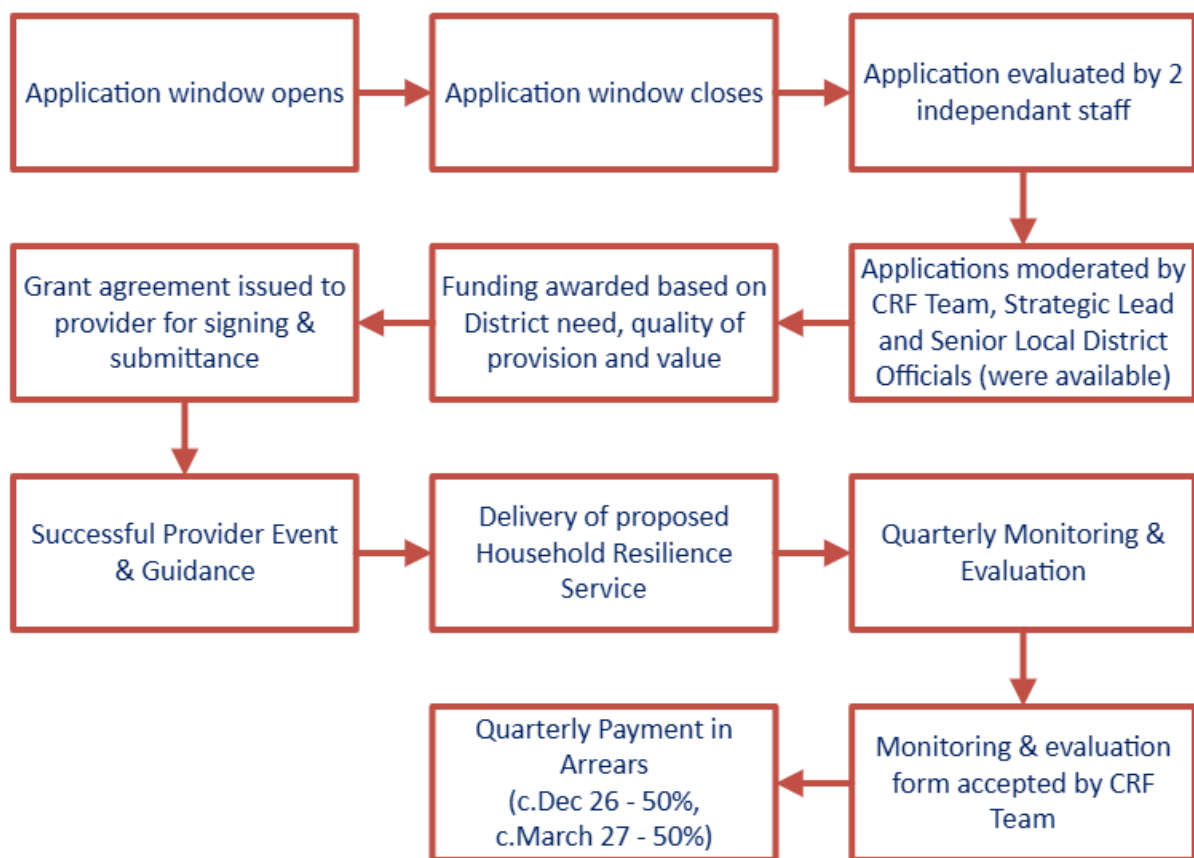
Crisis Resilience Fund



This document outlines the funding, compliance, and delivery requirements for organisations who are applying for the Household Resilience Services Grant as part of the Staffordshire County Council (SCC) disbursement of investment allowed by the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF).

The policy sets out how funding is allocated, the expectations placed on providers, and the processes to ensure high-quality, safe, and effective delivery in line with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) framework.

Application and funding process map



Application scoring

All applications will be assessed through a robust and transparent evaluation process to ensure fairness, consistency and alignment with the DWP CRF Programme Framework (see sections 94-110 in particular, [Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England \(1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029\) - GOV.UK](#))

Each application will be independently reviewed by two assessors who will evaluate submissions based on:

- The quality and completeness of responses provided within the application form.
- The accuracy, appropriateness of statements and any accompanying evidence

Applications will be scored against the following key criteria:

- Alignment to CRF resilience services outcomes
- Value for money
- Organisational capacity and experience
- System integration

Scores from both independent assessors will be reviewed and moderated to ensure a transparent and fair procurement process. Final funding decisions will be made based on combined scores, available budget, and the overall balance of provision across the district areas.

Alignment to CRF resilience services outcomes - 40%

Assessors will gauge evidence that the main outcome areas are being addressed. Consider how your service delivery will impact on one or more of the outcome areas and the difference this will make to households, particularly those with children or vulnerable adults. There will also be consideration for innovative and creative approaches to delivering outcomes. The following outlines the main CRF resilience service outcomes (see section 102 of the CRF guidance for further details):

- Reduced experiences of material deprivation
 - Reduced need for emergency food parcels
 - Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services
 - Increased savings
 - Reduction in priority debt
 - Maximisation of individuals' incomes
 - Decreased need for Crisis Payments and Housing Payments
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Value for money - 30%

Assessors will evaluate whether the proposal represents good value for money. This will look at the cost of the proposal versus the benefit to the community or people that access the service. They will also consider additional funding secured from other sources. Costs should be reasonable and proportionate, with management and overhead expenses kept to a minimum. Provision should not duplicate existing service without clear evidence of additional capacity, access, reach or impact.

Organisational capacity & experience - 20%

Assessors will consider how an organisation can demonstrate they have appropriate governance, financial controls and policies needed to manage public funding. This will include their management structure, experience and sustainability. They will consider the current success of their services to households and how they already deliver against the CRF resilience service outcomes (see Alignment to CRF resilience services outcome section). It will be of utmost importance for organisations to have the capability of reporting against our outcomes to ensure that we are having the desired impact upon our households.

Partnership Working - 10%

There are many providers and statutory services already supporting households within local communities to improve their long-term outcomes. Assessors will consider how your service delivery will work in partnership with existing organisations and where appropriate evidence can be provided of warm referrals and joined up pathways.

Awarding Funding

The allocation of funding is based on the need across Staffordshire. The total funding allocated to CRF resilience services amount to £2.4m. Each district has been provided with a minimum of £120k each to ensure significant support in every district. The remainder has been allocated using our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data (2025/26).

[Joint strategic needs assessment | Staffordshire County Council.](#)

The factors included from that data source are:

- The population in each district that falls into the high deprivation quintile

- The number of children in relative low-income families
- The number people aged 60 and over in income-deprived households
- The number of households in fuel poverty

A proportion of the funding (15%) is ringfenced for Local/Borough District Councils, amounting to £360,000 to enhance their local delivery. This approach supports a fair and evidence-based allocation of resources, while promoting both programme growth and long-term market development.

CRF Digital Information Management System

All CRF grant funding applications will be completed via a link to an online form that is hosted on 'Plinth'. 'Plinth' is an integrated software platform which enables SCC to manage Crisis Payments and Grant applications and will also include the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme delivery. Full training and guidance will be provided to successful applicants to meet the requirements of the DWP reporting. The following is a link to their website, showcasing their system:

[Crisis and Resilience Fund | Plinth](#)

Grant Agreement & Financial Documentation

Grant agreement letters (GAL) will be issued to all successful providers.

Providers are required to review the contents of the GAL to ensure full understanding and acceptance of the funding. The agreement must be signed and submitted within 7-10 days of receipt.

New providers working with SCC will be required to complete a new provider information request, supplying full company details and bank information. This is necessary to enable the provider to be included on the county's internal finance system to facilitate CRF grant award payments.

In addition, providers must submit either a template invoice or a company letterhead displaying their organisation name, email address, and contact number. These details must align with the information held by the provider's bank to ensure accurate and timely payment processing.

Compliance Requirements



Organisations awarded funding must provide the following compliance documents before delivery commences and maintain them throughout the funding period.

Financial Governance:

Evidence of appropriate financial controls, including:

- Most recent annual accounts (or equivalent financial statement)
- Bank account in the organisation's name
- Appropriate financial procedures for managing grant funding

Safeguarding Compliance:

Safeguarding Policy

A current safeguarding policy outlining the organisation's commitment to protecting children, young people, and adults at risk, including reporting procedures, roles and responsibilities, and responding to safeguarding concerns. This must comply with Staffordshire's safeguarding policies and procedures.

[Home - Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

[Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board | Staffordshire County Council](#)

Designated Safeguarding Lead Training Certificates (Level 3 Required)

Organisations must have a Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) who has completed Level 3 Safeguarding Training. This demonstrates that appropriate safeguarding leadership, knowledge and expertise are in place to support the safe delivery of services.

Where Level 3 Safeguarding training is not currently in place, organisations must commit to ensuring that designated staff complete the training before service delivery commences. Some training can be accessed free of charge from the safeguarding partnerships. Where training is not free, these costs can be included in your application.

Enhanced DBS Information for Staff Delivering Resilience Services

Confirmation that appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks have been completed for staff and volunteers who work directly with children, young people, adults at risk, or other vulnerable groups as part of the funded service.



Safer Recruitment Policy

A policy must demonstrate the measures used when recruiting staff and volunteers, including vetting, references, DBS checks and safeguarding considerations, to ensure suitable individuals are engaged in delivering services.

Operational Compliance:

Health and Safety Policy

Your policy should demonstrate how the organisation manages health and safety risks, protects staff and participants, and complies with relevant health and safety legislation.

Policies for Lone Working (Where Applicable)

Your policy should demonstrate how the organisation makes arrangements for managing the safety and wellbeing of staff and volunteers who undertake visits, outreach or other lone working activities.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Your policy should demonstrate how the organisation promotes equality of opportunity, prevents discrimination, and ensures services are accessible and inclusive for all participants, staff, and volunteers.

Complaints Policy

Your policy should demonstrate how complaints from service users, staff, volunteers, partner organisations, or members of the public will be received, recorded, investigated, and resolved.

Lockdown Policy (Where Applicable)

A policy detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency requiring the site or venue to be secured, helping to safeguard adults, children, staff, and visitors.

Employers Liability Insurance

A copy of the current Employers' Liability Insurance certificate. This provides protection for employees in the event of work-related injury or illness and is a legal requirement for all employers.

Public Liability Insurance

A copy of the current Public Liability Insurance certificate. This provides cover for claims arising from injury to third parties or damage to property resulting from the organisation's activities.



Food Safety and Hygiene Policy (Where Applicable)

If delivery includes food preparation, cooking on a budget or training, a food safety policy will be required and food hygiene training for relevant staff

This must include Natashas law ([Introduction to allergen labelling for PPDS food - GOV.UK](#)).

Grant payments

Payments will be made on a quarterly basis in arrears. The following activities must be completed to receive payment:

- Grant award letter must be signed and submitted.
- You must provide the financial details necessary to be set up on the SCC finance system.
- You must provide your quarterly monitoring and evaluation return and this must be reviewed and approved by the CRF Team.

The first funding period is for 6 months , until 31st March 2027. Therefore, funding will be made in two parts. 50% at the end of 3rd quarter (circa. December 2026) of the financial year 2026/27 and the final 50% at the end of the 4th quarter (circa. March 2027).

Monitoring and evaluation

Service providers will be required to provide information on a quarterly basis on how they have delivered against their proposal and include evidence that we are delivering the outcomes that support our households to become more financially resilient.

You will be expected to complete a management information return in line with DWP requirements and there will be an opportunity to upload anonymised data on our grant portal (Plinth).

The upload should be in excel format and capture the following details for all households accessing the service outlined in your proposal:

Basic Information:

- Unique reference for that household (we want to see if they are frequently accessing the service)
 - Postcode of Household (we want to know if they are in areas in most need)
 - Marital Status
 - Dependants – Amount in each age range – 0-5, 5-19, 19-25, 25-60, 60+
 - Household income
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Financial Status (before and after if applicable)

- *Financial Spectrum Status* – Financially Vulnerable, Stressed, Coping, Secure or Thriving

What CRF outcomes have been achieved

- *CRF Resilience Service Outcomes* - Reduce Material Deprivation, Reduce Emergency Food Parcels, Increase Quality Advice Service, Increased Savings, Reduce Priority Debt, Maximisation of Individuals' Income, Less Crisis Payments and Housing Payments

What happened at the end of the intervention

- Did they:
 - Remain part of the service
 - Experience no material change
 - Signposted on to another service (financial)
 - Signposted to wider support (non-financial)
 - Not engage any further

Impact on the individual and their dependants

- Their wellbeing and status
- Children and young people's wellbeing
- Vulnerable adults' wellbeing

Case Studies

- A minimum of 2 case studies will be required
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