



## **Homes for Ukraine Independence Support Fund 2023/2024**

### **Introduction**

Winchester City Council is offering financial support to Ukrainians on the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme, to help them settle into their local community and adjust to life in the Winchester district.

Individuals can apply for small grants of up to **£500** to help with specific and individual needs.

Examples of activities that could be funded include:

- a bespoke vocational language course to help with employment
- acquiring a qualification which may lead to increased employment opportunities
- purchase of a phone or laptop to improve digital connectivity and help towards becoming more independent part of the local community\*
- short-term help for children and young people to mix and meet with others in the local community by pursuing a hobby or joining a local club

\* Note that the Council accepts no liability for any ongoing cost associated with these equipment purchases.

Applicants may apply for a support grant for themselves and/or for their child. If you need support for an adult and for child(ren) please make a separate application for each person.

There is a limit of one grant per person per year and grants will be allocated and awarded at the discretion of the city council.

If you require any help with completing the form or would like to discuss your application, please contact the Community Liaison Officer for Ukraine:  
Julia Karabut, [jkarabut@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:jkarabut@winchester.gov.uk), Tel: 01962 848061.

### **Who can apply?**

Guests on the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme whose host lived in the Winchester district when the guest arrived to the UK and/or who currently lives in the district. Please see our [Ward Map](#) for more information about the area this covers.

Please note: the Council may ask for proof of immigration status, proof of address and/or evidence of a local work connection.

## What can you apply for?

Here are some examples of the types of activities/items that could be funded:

- Vocational or additional English classes
- Professional business advisers
- Funds to cover a test to prove professional skills or knowledge, including English
- Bus pass provision in order to access educational courses or work
- Funds to apply for a certificate of work comparability
- Laptop or phone if it is deemed necessary for work or educational purposes
- Driving familiarisation lessons should that contribute to independence and integration
- Leisure activities passes
- Community activities passes
- Tutoring and educational activities for children (outside of the statutory provision)
- Emergency childcare in exceptional circumstances where that is related to work or education

## Funding Themes

Individuals applying for funds to support their independence and adjusting to life in the UK should explain how this support contributes towards the following funding themes:

- Employment
- Removing the language barriers
- Access to transport
- Access to community activities
- Supporting children and young people to adjust to life in the UK

## We are unable to fund:

| Applicants  | Types of ineligible support   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individuals not on HFU visa scheme</li><li>• Individuals whose hosts are non-Winchester residents</li><li>• Organisations</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A need which occurs outside the United Kingdom</li><li>• Personal expenses</li><li>• Tickets to entertainment and cultural events</li><li>• Medical services/items which can be provided free of charge by the NHS</li><li>• Essential white goods or items of furniture, any kind of furnishings (refer to Housing support)</li><li>• Any kind of direct financial support: debt, investments, insolvency costs, rent, repairs costs, taxes</li><li>• Car and insurance related expenses</li></ul> |

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|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to day / everyday childcare</li> <li>• Retrospective funding of services/activities already undertaken or incurred</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Application

To apply please follow this link to an online form: [Flexigrant online application form](#).

You will need to create an account to login to the system. You will then be able to start an application. Please make sure you complete all sections of the application form and upload all the documents requested. Further evidence may be requested to support the application if necessary.

Each application will be assessed against the grant eligibility and criteria.

Funding decisions are delegated to Winchester City Council's Town Centre and Community Manager and Communities and Wellbeing Service Lead. The initial assessment is undertaken by the Community Liaison Officer (Ukraine) based on the application and evidence provided.

Should it be necessary, you may be invited for a brief discussion about your application.

Applications will be approved or declined **within 15 working days** from the date of submitting the application.

**The council's decisions with regards to funding are discretionary and therefore there is no appeals process.**

## Method of payment

The council's payment preference will be to make the payment direct to the applicant upon the provision of a receipt in respect of the agreed item(s)/services paid for or alternatively where deemed appropriate direct to the supplier.

Where applicable other methods of payment might be considered at the discretion of the council.

Winchester City Council reserves the right to fund less than the amount requested in the application form.

## Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must comply with all the following criteria:

1. Individuals applying for funding must be a Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme (whose host lived in the Winchester district upon the guest's arrival into to the UK) and/or be currently living in the district.

2. The purpose of the funding must be able to support at least one of our funding themes.
3. This grant is means tested and **won't be granted should the applicant have savings over £6,000.**
4. Item(s)/services **cannot be applied for or funded retrospectively** (applicants must wait for a formal decision and offer of their award before making a purchase)

Applicants should always try to satisfy their need via existing support and provide detailed reasons as to why the funding is required.