



Homes for Ukraine Independence Support Fund

Introduction

Winchester City Council is offering financial support to Ukrainians on the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme (or previously HFU who now switched to the UPE 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. We can provide support for services only; items will no longer be funded through this grant.

Applicants may apply for a support grant for themselves and/or for their child. If you need support for yourself and for your child(ren) please make a separate application for each person and indicate who is the main applicant in the section 2 of your application form. Each adult must have their own Flexi Grant account and make their own application.

There is a limit of **two** grants per person. Grants will be allocated and awarded at the discretion of the city council. It should be at least 4 months between the previous award payment date and new application.

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, 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 in the UK and/or guest who currently lives in the district. Please see our [Ward Map](#) for more information about the area this covers. If you are now on UPE visa scheme, you should have previously had a HFU visa.

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

What can you apply for?

Examples of services that could be funded include:

- extra or vocational English language courses to help with employment
- acquiring a qualification which may lead to increased employment opportunities
- professional body membership
- funds to cover a test to prove professional skills or knowledge
- driving lessons to contribute to independence and integration
- bus pass to access educational courses or work
- tutoring and educational activities for children (outside of the statutory provision)
- local leisure centre membership and activities passes
- short-term help for children and young people to mix and meet with others in the local community by joining a local activities club
- Emergency childcare in exceptional circumstances where that is related to work or education

If you are applying for employment related support, we advise you to contact Community Support Officer Anstey Brierley first to identify the best support for your employment options.

Qualification courses providers should be recognised as approved training provider by the professional body, where appropriate.

As part of the application, a lesson plan or course overview from the tutor or provider needs to be attached.

The supplier should be based in the UK and comply with UK regulatory and reporting requirements.

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 with education

We are unable to fund:

Applicants	Types of ineligible support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals who were not on HFU visa scheme• Non-district residents (you need to be consistently living at least 6 months to become a resident in Winchester district for this grant purposes)• Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A physical item• A need which occurs outside the United Kingdom• Personal expenses• Tickets to entertainment and cultural events• Medical services/items which can be provided free of charge by the NHS• Essential white goods or items of furniture, any kind of furnishings (refer to Housing support)• Any kind of direct financial support: debt, investments, insolvency costs, rent, repairs costs, taxes• Car and insurance related expenses• Day to day / everyday childcare• Retrospective funding of services/activities already undertaken or incurred

Application

To apply please follow this link to an online form: [Grant 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.

To undertake the necessary family financial checks, bank statements for **all the adult household members** should be uploaded even when one member of the household is applying as part of the grant application.

The applicant(s) must provide bank statements from **all** existing bank accounts.

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 25 working days** from the date you have provided all the supporting evidence.

Please allow 25 working days from the date you have provided all the supporting evidence before you contact us to enquire about the outcome of your application.

Please apply at least 6 weeks before the payment for the services you are applying for is due.

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

Method of payment

The payment is made direct to the applicant upon the provision of a receipt in respect of the agreed services paid for.

Each adult (18+) applicant must make a separate application from their FlexiGrant account and upload bank statements for the whole household.

If the applicant applied for grants in 23/24 financial year, it is applicant's responsibility to let the Council know if their **bank details** have changed since they were setup as a creditor.

Bank transactions for the last 3 months must evidence that the applicant resides in the Winchester district.

Should an applicant provide false information the Council reserves the right to refuse a grant award.

The receipt must detail the applicant's name, service awarded and cost.

The Council will endeavour to make a re-imbusement payment to the applicant within **15 working days** from the date a full receipt was submitted.

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

Family applications will be reimbursed in tranches of up to £1000 per month.

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/or previously had the Homes for Ukraine Scheme (whose host lived in the Winchester district upon the guest's arrival into to the UK) and/or living in the district for at least 6 months.

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/ household have funds over £6,000.**
4. 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.