

Struggling with the cost of living?

www.rbwm.gov.uk



If you are struggling financially and having to make difficult decisions – help is available.

Please visit www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help to see what support might be available to you. If you aren't online, call 01628 683800 or visit your library



Here are just some of the schemes and support that could help if you are struggling with the cost of living. Visit www.rbwm.gov.uk/here-to-help for more and www.gov.uk/cost-of-living to see the government support webpages.

Benefits

To check if you may be entitled to additional benefits, www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support or www.entitledto.co.uk and <https://rbwmclaims.teamnetsol.com>

For advice on central government benefits, visit www.gov.uk/browse/benefits. For advice on benefits administered by the council, visit call 01628 796036 or email benefits@rbwm.gov.uk

Energy

Contact your energy supplier if you're struggling – agree a payment plan and see if you can apply for a hardship grant. If you can't get a hardship grant from your supplier, you might be able to get a grant from British Gas Energy Trust (0121 348 7797) <https://britishgasenergytrust.org.uk>

Sustainable Warmth Scheme – energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, window upgrades, heat pumps, solar panels and solar thermal panels. <https://berkshire-applications.co.uk>

If you're struggling to heat your home, a growing number of community venues are designated as safe, warm spaces. See the council website for locations.

Water

Thames Water (0800 980 8800) and South East Water (0333 000 0001) offer discounts and other support for those struggling with water bills, including for big households on those on low incomes. Visit their websites or call.

Housing

Housing Benefit – support with rent if you are a pensioner, or live in temporary or specified accommodation.

Discretionary Housing Payment – short-term financial help if you are a Housing Benefit claimant or receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit. Pick up an application form at Maidenhead or Windsor libraries or email benefits@rbwm.gov.uk

Daily essentials

Foodshare Maidenhead – Contact lester@foodshare.charity, debbie@foodshare.charity, or 01628 262711 if an emergency. Windsor Foodshare – Contact manager@windsorfoodshare.org.uk

Some national retailers have special cost of living offers. Visit <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/discounts-and-offers>

Council Tax

Reduction Scheme – up to 100 per cent reduction if you are on a low income and are of pensionable age, and up to 80 per cent if you are on a low income and of working age. Apply on the council website.

Discounts and exemptions – for single people, and many more. Apply on the council website.

Childcare and school meals

Free School Meals – speak with your child's school directly.

Free childcare – please contact Childcare Services on 0300 123 4097.