

# Cost of Living Support

**Benefits and financial help**, including:

- [Benefits and support for your household](#) - How to get further information and advice about benefits you may be able to claim and help available to manage your finances, debt and household costs.
- [Cost of Living](#) - Find out what help is available for households and businesses in Lancashire.
- [Help with essential household items](#) - Find out about the Essential Household Goods Support Scheme and how to access further information and support.
- [Help with Energy](#) - Find out about help with energy bills, energy saving, energy efficiency schemes and what to do if your boiler is broken.

## **Warm and welcome places:**

Our libraries are warm and welcome spaces, where you can find:

- a warm drink
- a space to sit
- free computers and Wi-Fi
- charging points for digital equipment
- events and activities
- staff support to find information

[Find a library](#) to view facilities, what's on and opening times. All our libraries are accessible. You can also [download a printable list of the libraries which are warm and welcome places](#) (PDF 263KB), but please check the individual library web pages for up to date opening times.

## **Support with food**

### **Food banks**

If you're struggling to pay for food, you might be able to get a referral to a food bank for emergency food. You can find out more on the [Citizens Advice website](#).

### **Free school meals**

Your child may be able to get [free school meals](#) if you get certain benefits.

### **Healthy Start - if you have a child under 4 or are pregnant**

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Find out more and apply on the [Healthy Start NHS website](#).

If you have any questions or have any difficulties with applying you can come to one of the [Healthy Start digital sessions at our libraries](#) for help.

## **Support in your district**

Find out what support is available in your area from your local district council website link below.

If you are unsure which district council to contact, you can [find your district council by post code](#).

- [Burnley Together](#) - Burnley Borough Council and other local organisations
- [Chorley Borough Council](#)
- [Lancaster City Council](#)
- [Pendle Borough Council](#)
- [Preston City Council](#)
- [West Lancashire Borough Council](#)
- [Wyre Borough Council](#)

## **Paying for Childcare**

### [Funded childcare for 2-year-olds](#)

Some two-year-olds in Lancashire may qualify for up to 15 hours a week at a local nursery or with a childminder, funded by the government. Check if you are eligible and search for a provider.

### [Funded childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds](#)

From the term after your child's third birthday, they can have up to 15 hours a week at a local nursery or with a childminder funded by the government.

### [30 hours funded childcare](#)

Eligible working families can get an additional 15 hours funded childcare on top of the 15 hours universal funded childcare.

### [Help paying for childcare](#)

Financial support for you and your family.