



North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund

Update Bulletin for Agencies

September 2019



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Grant Award Spend

While the Fund tries to support as many people as possible each year we do have a limited annual budget, which must be available year round so that no one is disadvantaged by the time of year in which they apply.

With an increasing number of applications each year, and cost pressures, particularly with the rise in price of white good items we would like to remind Agents to be vigilant and only apply to the Fund where other forms of support have been exhausted, and only for those items essential to the need of the applicant.

North Yorkshire County Council and Family Fund Business Services proactively ensure that the administrative processes and supply partners that support the Fund are delivering best value for money and that as much funding is available for grant awards. However, we need your help in order to continue supporting as many people as possible.

Save the Date – NYLAF Stakeholder Workshop (23rd October)

Now in the seventh year, the annual Stakeholder Workshop provides an excellent opportunity to provide some key information and data, as well as for North Yorkshire County Council and Family Fund Business Services to hear feedback and invite suggestions from partners about the Fund.

The date for the Workshop is Wednesday 23rd October and it will take place in the morning at County Hall, Northallerton. An invitation to attend will be circulated closer to the time.

Changes to the Homeless Prevention Contracts

From 1 October the Homeless Prevention Service Contracts, currently delivered in each district by either Horton Housing or Humankind will cease, with a new in-house service being delivered by each District and Borough Council as part of a collaboration agreement with North Yorkshire County Council.

Changes to AO's Order Redemption System

AO are the white good supplier for the Fund. From 1 September, to simplify and speed up the supply process for applicants they will be using email as the primary form of communication with applicants regarding the item and delivery.

In the event that the applicant does not have an email address, AO will use the telephone number provided for the applicant. Please ensure that these details are completed and correct when submitting applications.

AO have released a video outlining the change here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wMbD-hfTbNUFh_G6ikZj6I4cB4aCJEQh/view?usp=sharing

Beds and Bedding Awards

There have been a number of applications for bed awards that have not required bedding. As mentioned above, this has led to costs being incurred that were not necessary. While the default position remains that bed and bedding items count as one award, we have decided to split these options on the application form so that bedding is no longer automatically given out with beds.

If bedding is required you will need to add this when completing the application form. To reiterate, all beds and bedding included in an application will only count as one award.

Update to Contact Details

We will be contacting agents and partners in the coming weeks to update the Fund's contact list. The list of contacts is now quite dated, as individuals have moved on and teams and organisations have been restructured.

Contact from the Fund is infrequent, and only used for the purposes of informing those affected of any changes or updates to the Fund. I will be seeking a named contact for each partner/agency/team as well as a generic or admin email address where available. The named contact can then disseminate any information more widely within the team/organisation. There will also be an opportunity to remove contacts where desired.

Smaller White Good Items

We understand that some applicants are transient and may frequently move accommodation. To support applicants, especially those who may find it difficult or expensive to transport items between properties we have made available a range of smaller white goods, including counter fridges and cookers. Please do apply for these where they would be of greater benefit to an applicant than a fitted or larger free-standing item.

Enquiries: nylaf@northyorks.gov.uk

Public information: www.northyorks.gov.uk/nylaf

Partner updates: www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nylaf