

## Food and Essential Support for Families in Richmond upon Thames

### Access to Food Support and Food Donations

#### **DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essentials**

Managed by [Richmond AID](#) and [Citizens Advice Richmond](#) (CAR), this grant can support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to Covid-19, subject to available funds, up to 31 March 2021.

#### **Eligibility**

Must be over 18 and live in the borough of Richmond and be struggling from the impact of Covid for example:

- reduced pay or lost job
- benefits issues
- struggling to afford food and other essentials
- extra costs as a result of Covid
- individuals with no recourse to public funds are also eligible, particularly if:
  - there are community care needs
  - they have serious health problems
  - there is a risk to a child's wellbeing.

#### **What can the grant be for?**

You can apply for a grant for food, clothing, or essential equipment. Other areas may be considered if evidence can be provided that it is essential.

**Please note** they need to see evidence such as identification and proof of living in the borough (Driving Licence, utility bills, rent/mortgage letters, benefit letter) and bank account letters or other relevant identification. They will ask your permission to share information to reduce any duplication.

#### **Referrals**

[Richmond AID](#) and [Citizens Advice Richmond](#) will talk to you and assess your needs and eligibility and advise you on a range of different options of support available to you.

[Richmond AID](#) / <http://www.richmondaid.org.uk>

Richmond AID can support people with long term health conditions, disabilities or carers. Call 020 8831 6464 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm) or email [advice@richmondaid.org.uk](mailto:advice@richmondaid.org.uk).

[Citizen Advice Richmond](#) / [www.citizensadvice-richmond.org](http://www.citizensadvice-richmond.org)

Citizens Advice Richmond can support all residents living in the borough of Richmond.

Call 0300 330 2114 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm)

Email via the form on their website - [www.citizensadvice-richmond.org/get-advice/email-us/](http://www.citizensadvice-richmond.org/get-advice/email-us/)

Organisations can refer clients directly using a form on the website:

[www.citizensadvice-richmond.org/referral-page/](http://www.citizensadvice-richmond.org/referral-page/)

### **Richmond FoodBank / [www.richmond.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.richmond.foodbank.org.uk)**

In order to get help from the Richmond FoodBank you need to get a foodbank voucher provided by a local referring agency. You can call or email the foodbank to talk through your situation and be put in touch with a relevant local agency.

**Email [foodbank@vineyardcommunity.org](mailto:foodbank@vineyardcommunity.org) or call 020 8894 0274.**

Alternatively, you can phone [Citizens Advice Richmond](#) who are a local food bank voucher agency on 0300 330 2114.

**[Richmond Advice and Information on Disability \(RAID\)](#)** currently operating a food hub providing food donated by local people. If you need their help, call their advice line 020 8831 6070 or email [info@richmondaid.org.uk](mailto:info@richmondaid.org.uk).

**[RUILS](#)** is a local charity that supports children and adults with disabilities and the elderly to live independently. They are currently operating a food hub providing food donated by local people. If you need their help. call 020 8831 6083 or email [info@ruils.co.uk](mailto:info@ruils.co.uk).

**[The Real Junk Food Project Twickenham](#)** offers weekly café sessions in St Margarets and Hampton Hill where they use surplus fresh food from local businesses to create a hot lunch and provide surplus food for you to take away. It operates a pay what you can scheme and you do not need to pay anything. They are based at the [ETNA Centre](#) in St Margarets and [The Greenwood Centre](#) in Hampton Hill. For weekly opening times go to [www.e-voice.org.uk/triftp](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/triftp), email [trifp.twickenham@gmail.com](mailto:trifp.twickenham@gmail.com) or call 020 8892 0590.

**[Food for Thought Heathfield](#)** is a new community project launched in December 2020 and based on Heathfield Recreation Ground in Whitton TW2 6EG, next to Heathfield School and the Children's Centre. It distributes surplus food from supermarkets, independent food outlets and restaurants that would otherwise go to landfill. It is open to anyone with no charge made, although you can make a donation. The stall operates on Thursday, 2.30pm to 4.30pm and Saturday, 11.30am to 1.30pm. Please bring your own carrier bag.

### **[Advice and Guidance to help access grants, benefits, debt management support and more](#)**

#### **Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?**

Many families are entitled to free school meals but do not claim them. The process is simple and your application will be processed in two days. As well as the benefit of a hot nutritious meal every day, the school benefits by receiving £900 per child (known as the Pupil Premium) which is used to offer increased opportunities, equipment and books to support pupil learning. You are eligible if you receive **one** of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-On - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you applied on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

- Nursery aged children must be receiving education before and after lunch to be entitled to free school meals.

For more information and to apply, visit Richmond Council webpage at [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/children\\_and\\_family\\_care/schools\\_and\\_colleges/welfare\\_and\\_support/pupil\\_and\\_student\\_finance/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/children_and_family_care/schools_and_colleges/welfare_and_support/pupil_and_student_finance/free_school_meals).

**Citizens Advice Richmond** can provide support and advice across all aspects of family life, including housing, debt, benefit entitlements and employment matters.  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/richmond](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/richmond) / 0300 330 2114

**Crosslight** provides debt and money advice. It is part of the Community Money Advice Network of debt advice agencies and had an office in Twickenham. It supports people to combat debt and hardship caused by the burden of unmanageable debt and lack of financial capability. [www.crosslightadvice.org](http://www.crosslightadvice.org) / 020 7052 0318

**South West London Law Centres** offers free and independent legal advice on social welfare issues including housing, debt, immigration and employment.  
<http://www.swllc.org> / 020 8767 2777

**LBRUT** “I need help” web pages bring together a wide range of support available locally, including food and financial help. This can be found at [What other help is available? - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#).

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