



PRESS RELEASE

18th July 2022

Pensioners Urged to Apply for Household Support Fund

Citizens Advice in Dorset are encouraging pensioners to apply for the government's Household Support Fund to help with the cost of living increase, before the funds are no longer available.

Citizens Advice is working with Dorset Council to administer the government's Household Support Fund which is now available to pensioners who are on a low income.

Nina Downes, Project Leader, said: "The government has allocated funding for pensioners to help with the increase in the cost of living and spiralling energy prices."

"If you're a pensioner living in the Dorset Council area and are on a low income, we urge you to apply for the fund. It's easy to apply and if you're not online, there are other options available."

Citizens Advice is encouraging residents to help an elderly relative, friend or neighbour who could be eligible for the Household Support Fund by telling them about the funding and helping with the application if applicable.

The online application asks for proof of ID and providing pensioners do not have savings of more than £10,000, a supermarket voucher will be issued.

Nina continues: "It's really important that pensioners apply now before the funding is no longer available. There is a time limit so we want to encourage as many pensioners as possible to apply. This is not a grant, they don't need to pay it back, it's money available in the form of a supermarket voucher to help with the cost of living increase."

Dorset Council residents can apply online here www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund. If not online, residents can call into their local Citizens Advice office for help. For opening hours and locations visit www.citizensadvisedorset.org.uk or call the Dorset Adviceline on 0800 144 8848.

Alternatively, Digital Champions at local libraries can assist with applications. Appointments must be booked in advance by calling 01305 221048, Monday to Friday, 10am to midday. Opening times for the Digital Champions can be viewed here www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/getting-online

For free, confidential advice and support, call the Dorset Adviceline on 0800 144 8848 or visit www.citizensadvisedorset.org.uk for details of your nearest Citizens Advice.

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For more information contact: Sian Smith, Comms Officer, tel: 01929 408947, email: sian.smith@edpcitizensadvice.org.uk

About Citizens Advice in Dorset:

Citizens Advice in Dorset provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities to enable them to find a way forward whatever problems they face. We value diversity, promote equality, challenge discrimination wherever we see it and aim to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Citizens Advice in Dorset is located across three regions:

- Citizens Advice Bridport & District www.bridportca.org.uk tel: 0800 144 8848
- Citizens Advice Central Dorset www.centraldorsetca.org.uk tel: 0800 144 8848
- Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck www.edpcitizensadvice.org.uk tel: 0800 144 8848