

## **Food and Essentials -Support for families in Richmond**

### **Access to food and essentials support**

**Growbaby** We are able to provide extra support for Richmond families who are in food crisis or other kinds of crisis as a result of the pandemic or other situations such as no recourse to public funds. Growbaby provides new and used baby clothing and equipment regardless of income, faith or background. We are also able, in some circumstances, to provide formula, nappies, wipes and baby food for 6 - 12 months. We also run the baby food blender programme and so if the baby is between 5 1/2 - 9 months we may be able to give the family a blender and a baby weaning pack. **Please contact your school who can refer you.** This scheme runs until the end of March 2021.

**DEFRA Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essentials.** Managed by Richmond AID and Citizens Advice Richmond (CAR) this grant can support people who are having difficulty in affording food and other essentials due to COVID-19, subject to available funds up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### **Eligibility**

- Most 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.

A similar fund **The Coronavirus Winter Support Fund** is also available from CAR and RAID. It is funding from the government that has been made available locally by Achieving for Children, to make direct grants for food, utilities and winter essentials to families, and individuals in the community and again is available until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

These funds, alongside a range of other grants, financial and debt management advice is available via Citizens Advice Richmond (CAR) and Richmond AID, and I would encourage anyone you are working with who is experiencing financial difficulties due to the pandemic to get in touch with them. There is lots of support and practical and financial help available, and it is vital that we connect our beneficiaries to it.

### **Referrals**

Richmond AID and Citizen Advice Richmond will talk to you and assess your needs and eligibility and advise you on a range of different options or support available to you.

### **Richmond AID**

[www.richmondaid.org.uk](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.citizensadvicerichmond.org/](http://www.citizensadvicerichmond.org/)

Citizen Advice Richmond call support all residents living in the borough of Richmond.

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

Email via a form on our website: [www.citizensadvicerichmond.org/get-advice/email-us/](http://www.citizensadvicerichmond.org/get-advice/email-us/)

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

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

**Richmond Food Bank** In order to get help from the Richmond Food Bank you need to get a food bank voucher provided by a local referring agency. You can call or e-mail the foodbank to talk through your situation and put you in touch with a relevant local agency [www.richmondfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.richmondfoodbank.org.uk) e-mail [foodbank@vineyardcommunity.org](mailto:foodbank@vineyardcommunity.org) **0208 894 00274**. Alternatively you can phone Citizens Advice Richmond who are a local food bank voucher agency 0300 330 2114.

**Richmond Advice and Information on Disability (RAID)** are currently operating a food hub providing food donated by local people. If you need their help contact their advice line 0208 831 6070 or e-mail [info@richmondaid.org.uk](mailto:info@richmondaid.org.uk) e-mail [info@ruils.co.uk](mailto:info@ruils.co.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 0208 831 6083 [info@ruils.co.uk](mailto:info@ruils.co.uk)

**The Real Junk Food Project** offers weekly café sessions in St Margarets and Hampton Hill where they use surplus fresh food from local businesses and 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) call 0208 892 0590.

**Food for Thought** is a new community project launched in December 2020 and based on Heathfield Recreation Ground in Whitton TW2 6EG, right next to Heathfield School, and Heathfield Children's Centre . It distributes surplus food that otherwise would have gone to landfill from supermarkets, independent food outlets and restaurants. It is open to anyone. No charge is made, although you can make a donation. The stall operates on Thursday 14.30 to 16.30pm and Saturday 11.30 – 13.30. Bring a carrier bag.

Advice and Guidance to help you access grants, benefits, debt management support etc

**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 2 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 apply 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

[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)

**Early Education Funding and 30 Hours Childcare Offer.** These pages from AfC set out the various entitlements available to fund early years children in nursery and childcare places. If you are unsure what might be relevant for you give the AfC Family Information Service a call. <https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/where-to-apply-for-childcare>

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

**Crosslight** provides debt and money advice, and is part of the Community Money Advice Network of debt advice agencies and have 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) 0207 052 0318

**South West London Law Centres** offer free and independent legal advice on social welfare issues including housing, debt, immigration and employment. [www.swllc.org](http://www.swllc.org) 0208 767 2777

**LBRUT "I need financial help" web pages** brings together a wide range of support available locally, including food and financial help. This can be found at [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/wellbeing\\_and\\_lifestyle/health\\_protection\\_information/coronavirus\\_information/where\\_can\\_i\\_find\\_help\\_or\\_support/covid-19\\_support\\_for\\_residents/i\\_need\\_financial\\_help](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/wellbeing_and_lifestyle/health_protection_information/coronavirus_information/where_can_i_find_help_or_support/covid-19_support_for_residents/i_need_financial_help)

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