

# Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant

## Emergency assistance for homeowners at risk

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012, Central Bedfordshire Council adopted a new Renewal Policy. This sets out the types of grants, assistance and loans that are available (subject to budget).

The Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant is currently available to help certain households at risk of injury or ill health in their homes.

### What is the Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant

This is a grant of up to £500 for emergency works, which can be administered quickly to remedy an urgent situation.

### What is the aim of the grant?

The grant provides a limited safety net for those people most in need, with immediate problems and in clearly urgent/distressing circumstances. The grant cannot help provide larger scale home improvements but can help remove a danger before more significant improvement works are carried out.

### What type of works can be included in a Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant?

The works are not restrictive but are intended to remedy defects or problems in homes that pose a risk to the safety, security or health of the occupants. The works could include:

- Providing door or window locks or other basic security measures where a burglary or attempted burglary has taken place.
- Repairing broken windows, doors etc where a burglary or attempted burglary has taken place.
- Providing essential repairs to electrical wiring where this has been assessed as dangerous.
- Making essential repairs to heating or hot water systems in times of cold weather.

- Undertaking essential repairs to remedy an immediate risk to health or safety, such as a broken stair tread or hand rail, or a broken window that is letting in rain or cold.
- Repairing blocked flues or ventilation systems that may pose a threat to the health and safety of the occupants.

### Who is eligible for a Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant?

Any homeowner (including Park Home owner) who is in receipt of income-related benefits (including Pension Credit) and is either aged over 60 years of age or in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance.

In some cases, private tenants meeting the above eligibility criteria may be eligible but in most circumstances, the landlord would be expected to carry out such works as part of their repairing obligations for the property. Housing Association and Council tenants are not eligible as there are systems in place to report emergency repairs etc for social housing tenants.

In all circumstances, you will be asked whether you have an emergency response service contained within an insurance policy. If so, you will not be eligible for a Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant in most circumstances.

### How can someone apply for a Safety, Security and Emergency Repair Grant?

If a homeowner who meets the eligibility criteria above finds themselves in an urgent situation due to the condition of their home, they should contact the Housing Solutions Team on 0300 300 8302. For someone who is traumatized from a burglary, or distressed about having no heating for example, it is possible for a family member, a neighbour, friend or advocate to contact the Council and discuss the situation.

Where a burglary or attempted burglary has occurred, it is possible for the Police Officers to liaise with the Council.

### **How quickly can works be carried out to remedy an urgent situation?**

If, from the first contact, the homeowner appears to be eligible for this emergency assistance, it is possible for a verbal approval to be given and verbal authorisation given to suitable contractors. However, if false information is given and someone is found to be ineligible for emergency assistance, the costs will be recovered. Proof of benefits etc and completion of application forms will be required but can be completed after the work is undertaken.

In most cases the applicant will be visited, but if it appears necessary to arrange works without an initial visit and survey, this is possible also.

### **Who are the contractors that can carry out such works?**

You can appoint your own suitable contractor or the Council can try and find one for you from contractors who have previously undertaken satisfactory grant work. In some cases the applicant or Council Officer will need to "ring round" possible, suitable contractors for availability. Many contractors will want some form of written authorisation that the Council will be funding the costs for the emergency works.

In all cases, the contractors must be told that the assistance is for £500 maximum. The Council will not be able to fund amounts over this figure.

### **Are there any grant repayment conditions?**

As the grant is only up to £500, there are currently no repayment conditions

### **More advice**

For more information, please contact the Housing Solutions Team on 0300 300 8302.



### **Contact us...**

Për Informacion

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Za Informacija

by telephone: 0300 300 8302

by email: [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

on the web: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,  
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

