

UOG Hardship Fund

What is the Hardship Fund?

The UOG Hardship Fund provides emergency financial assistance to residents of the Galson Estate Trust area who are experiencing financial hardship. The fund is designed to help meet essential needs when no other source of financial support is available.

Applications are confidential and must be submitted by a recognised professional or support worker on behalf of their client.

Who can submit an application?

Applications can be made by professionals working with individuals or families in need, including:

- Healthcare professionals
 - Social workers
 - Health visitors
 - Teachers
 - Charity and third-sector workers
 - Other recognised support professionals
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Who can receive support?

Support is available to residents living within the Galson Estate Trust area (Upper Barvas to Port of Ness).

Before applying

The Hardship Fund is intended as a **last resort**. Before submitting an application, please ensure that all appropriate sources of financial assistance have been explored, including:

- Benefits and statutory entitlements
- Local authority grants
- Charitable grants
- Other available funding schemes

If you are unsure what support may be available, the Western Isles Citizens Advice Service can provide free, impartial and confidential advice.

What support is available?

The following awards are intended as a guide. Other essential items may be considered where there is a genuine need, and no alternative source of funding is available.

Type of support

Clothing and footwear

Home essentials (e.g. mattress, waterproof bedding)

White goods (e.g. washing machine, cooker, fridge)

Shopping vouchers (no cash payments) - Shopping vouchers available from Welcome In Filling Station, Borve Mini Market, Swainbost Shop, Cross Stores, Tesco and the Co-op. Up to a maximum of £60 per person.

Energy bill support up to £300.

Examples of previous support

Previous awards have included:

- Groceries
- Clothing and shoes
- Mattresses
- Waterproof bedding
- White goods
- Dehumidifiers
- Assistance with energy bills

Energy bill support

Support towards energy bills is available for essential cases where all other sources of assistance have been exhausted.

Payments of up to £300 are made through TIG, [Tighean Innse Gall – Housing and energy agency for the Outer Hebrides](#), who will carry out an assessment and pay the energy supplier directly. Payments are not made directly to the applicant.

Confidentiality

All applications are treated confidentially.

To protect the client's privacy, only the postcode and limited anonymous information (such as household size and employment status) are collected for monitoring and reporting purposes. The client's name and address are not required.

How to apply

1. Complete the online Hardship Fund application form.
2. The application will be reviewed by Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust).
3. If approved, the Accounts team will arrange the purchase of approved items or process the agreed payment.
4. Collection or delivery arrangements will be made with the referring professional where appropriate.

To help maintain client confidentiality, UOG does not deliver items directly to recipients.

Further information

For further information about the Hardship Fund, please contact:

Email: office@uogltd.com

Telephone: 01851 850411

Application Form: [Hardship Fund Application](#)