

Home Starter Application Fund - Guidance for Customers

Home Starter

The One Vision Housing (OVH) Home Starter Fund has been established to enable individuals and families receive help and assistance in maintaining their homes and tenancies.

The fund is open to existing tenants and new customers who are moving into an OVH tenancy. The fund can provide household items that are classed as essential in order to establish and sustain a tenancy.

To assist you in accessing this fund we have put together the following guidelines which should help you make a successful application. If you have any other queries about this fund you can contact our Customer Service Centre on 0300 365 1111.

Who can apply to the OVH Home Starter Fund?

The OVH Home Starter is open to any individuals or family who live in or are moving into a One Vision Housing property.

What funding is available?

A total of £50,000 has been allocated to the Home Starter Fund for the next two years, capped at £25,000 each year.

Applicants can apply for a one off grant to the maximum value of £450 during their tenancy.

What will the fund pay for?

We will consider items deemed as essential for sustaining your tenancy such as:

Furniture removal, bed, bedding, wardrobe, sofa, curtains, blinds, fridge, freezer, carpet, microwave, oven, kettle, cutlery and crockery, towels, etc

Items not classed as essential would be: satellite or cable TV subscriptions, TV's, DVD players, prams, soft furnishings, ornaments, bikes, clothes etc. We also will not refund or pay for items you have already bought.

When can applications be made?

Applications can be submitted at any time by completing and returning the application form. Your form will be reviewed by your Neighbourhood Officer and the Neighbourhood Services Manager. You will be informed of the decision made within six weeks of receipt of your application.

Can I make more than one application?

If you are unsuccessful in receiving a grant, and your circumstances change, you are welcome to make another application after 3 months.

If you are successful in receiving a grant, you won't be eligible to make any further applications during your tenancy.

Your application

You will need to fill in the Home Starter Application Form to apply. This is available from your Neighbourhood Officer, via our website www.ovh.org.uk or our Customer Service Centre 0300 365 1111.

When filling out the application you must show how the items that you are applying for will help you maintain and sustain your tenancy.

You need to tell us what income you have coming into your household, either from welfare benefits, paid employment or any other income.

You must demonstrate that you have applied for and exhausted all other routes of potential funding, prior to applying to the Home Starter Fund.

Please give as much detail within your application as possible as this will assist the panel in making a decision.

Declaration

Please ensure the person submitting the information signs the form and all information provided is accurate.

What next?

If your application is successful or partially successful you will be informed in writing within six weeks of us receiving your application. If your application is not successful we will also write to you to let you know outlining why the application was not approved.

The panel's decision is final and there is no right of appeal.

Approved Supplier List

This is general list of the businesses that we will purchase items from, this is not a comprehensive list and it is mainly to provide a prompt to give you an idea of costs for items when completing your application.

- B&Q
- Co-op Electrical
- Tesco Direct
- Argos
- Strand Carpets
- Crosby Carpets
- Hallsall Furniture Removals
- Dulux Paint Vouchers

Grant Fraud

One Vision Housing takes grant fraud very seriously as this diverts scarce resources and support away from legitimate cases.

In those cases where we believe grant fraud has taken place we will request repayment of the grant.

Terms and Conditions

The Home Starter Fund is a project scheme ran by One Vision Housing. It reserves the right to withdraw the scheme at any time.

August 2014.