



Information on benefits and other initiatives which you may find helpful. This list is regularly updated.

Below is a list of links to useful web pages to help provide you with the relevant information you may need. This is regularly updated with the latest information so it's well worth checking out on a regular basis:

For up to date information regarding benefits:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/covid-19-benefits>

For up to date information on housing:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/covid-19-housing>

Extra financial support

Financial support may be available if you are in a financial crisis or need support including:

- [Discretionary Support](#)
- [Universal Credit Contingency Fund payment](#)
- [Short-term Benefit Advances](#)
- [Sure Start Maternity Grants](#)
- [Budgeting Loans](#)
- [Cold Weather Payments](#) (Ends 31 March 2020)
- [Universal Credit Contingency Fund grant](#)

DISCRETIONARY SUPPORT GRANT

To help support people during the COVID-19 pandemic the Department for Communities has put in place a non-repayable GRANT payment to assist with short-term living expenses where a person, or a member of their immediate family, has been infected by COVID-19 or told to self-isolate.

To apply for the grant fill in the claim form here:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/discretionary-support-form>

LAW CENTRE NI

<https://www.lawcentreni.org/coronavirus-covid-19-update>

Up-to-date information & advice on employment, social security, immigration and community care

CCG COUNCIL LIST OF COMMUNITY RESPONSES

<https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/community-services/covid-19-community-support/community-response-initiatives>

HELPLINES NI

Helplines NI is a membership–led organisation consisting of over 30 different helplines operating across Northern Ireland. The helplines provide a variety of vital support services including, information, advice, counselling, a listening ear and be-friending, and offer immediate support to those with a wide-range of health and wellbeing needs, often for those who are the most vulnerable in our community. Many of the services take place over the phone, but some can help via email, text and in some cases with live web-chat.

<https://helplinesni.com/>

LIFELINE

If you or someone you know needs help, you can telephone Lifeline free at any time. Lifeline is a crisis response helpline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to people in Northern Ireland. It offers immediate help over the telephone if you, or someone you know, is in distress or despair.

Tel: 0808 808 8000

www.lifelinehelpline.info

THE SAMARITANS

The Samaritans is an organisation which is available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair. The Samaritans offer a 24-hour telephone helpline:

Tel: 028 9066 4422

www.samaritans.org/branches/

CHILDLINE

If you're under 19, you can contact Childline: Tel: 0800 1111

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

<https://www.womensaidni.org/24-hour-domestic-sexual-violence-helpline/>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/contacts-az/24-hour-domestic-and-sexual-abuse-helpline>

SEXUAL VIOLENCE HELPLINE

<https://nexusni.org/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-24-hour-helpline/>