



Newsletter

15 February 2024

Are you missing out on Pension Credit? (Join the 1.4 million pensioners already receiving it)

Did you know that around a third of those eligible for pension credit are not claiming it? So if you, or a friend or loved one have reached State Pension age (66 for men and women) then read on (you could be missing out on extra money each week!)

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with living costs and can unlock help with other things like council tax (you will need to make a separate application to the council for this), Cold Weather Payments and a free TV licence for people over 75.

You may be eligible for Pension Credit even if you have some savings, receive a small occupational pension or own your own home. It's also possible that a change in circumstances can make someone newly eligible, for example a bereavement or new caring responsibilities.

Use the [Pension Credit Calculator](#) to check how much Pension Credit you might be eligible for.

You can claim online by using the [Pension Credit online service](#) or by telephoning 0800 99 1234, if English is not the claimants first language a phone interpreter can be arranged if needed.

Very vulnerable claimants can request the Pension Service's home-visiting service.



Financial support for households with high energy intensive medical equipment

The Household Support Fund is continuing to support those that are hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

If you or someone you live with uses specialist medical equipment and have high energy costs due to this, you could be eligible for up to £250 towards your energy bills.

The fund can be used to support children and adults who rely on high energy consuming medical equipment to meet their health needs. The equipment includes ventilators, dialysis machines, oxygen concentrators or feeding pumps.

To apply, individuals can make a self-referral or be referred by a professional body. The funding is available until 31st March 2024. For more information or to apply please visit the [Household Support Fund Page](#).



Support Available for Those Affected by Storm Henk

Herefordshire Council is offering financial aid through the Flood Recovery Framework for residents and businesses severely impacted by Storm Henk. The support includes: £500 Community Recovery Grant for flooded households, up to £2,500 Business Recovery Grant for small-to-medium sized businesses, and a potential 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.

In addition, property owners can soon apply for grants up to £5,000 to boost resilience against future flooding, and farmers facing uninsurable damage can seek grants up to £25,000 for repair and reinstatement costs through the Rural Payments Agency.

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday 15 March 2024**.

For more details and to apply, visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#).



Second round of funding available for festivals and events

Grants of up to £15,000 are now available to support the development or growth of Festivals and Events via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

This second round of funding will help to support festivals and events, building on the county's fantastic tourism and cultural offer as a great place to visit, live or work. Any organisation in the county with legal status and a bank account in the same name can apply, provided their activities deliver an increase in visitors, the number of festivals and events, or the number of volunteering opportunities available.

Applications must be submitted by midnight on **Sunday 10 March 2024**.

For more details and to apply, visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#).



Remember these upcoming opportunities

We quickly wanted to put the spotlight on a few things that you might have forgotten to get involved with!

Winter of Wellbeing: Our exciting season of free and fun family activities is still up and running for over a month, also offering a hot meal and wellbeing support to those feeling the pinch. Find an event near you on our [directory](#).

TECS Marketplace Event: Drop in for a special showcase of cutting-edge technologies designed to keep our elderly and vulnerable residents safe at home. From detecting falls to predicting and preventing incidents, there will be lots of innovations that are revolutionising care. The event is open to all at the Herefordshire Council head office at Plough Lane, HR4 0LE, on February 16th, between 10am – 3pm.

State of the Sector Survey: We want to hear from all local organisations, no matter how big or small! It only takes 15 mins to complete, and your help will provide insight on why the sector needs to be properly resourced, supported and listened to. Plus, by participating, there's a chance to win £500 for your group! [Click here to complete the survey](#).

Living Well Roadshows: There are a couple more Living Well Roadshow sessions in Herefordshire this week (with more dates to be announced soon).

Enjoy a coffee, and find out about ways to improve your financial, physical and mental wellbeing. [Visit our directory](#), to find a session near you.



What's new on the Talk Community Directory?

With spring just around the corner, there's no better time to take a look at what's on in your community! The Talk Community Directory contains all sorts of services and events for you to discover (and you can even add your own)! Here are some recent additions:

[Red Nose Day Event](#)

[Martial Arts Lessons](#)

[Warm Ross](#)

[Carers of Herefordshire](#)

[Feel Good For Life – Halo Leisure](#)

Herefordshire Cares Do you want to make a difference to people's lives every day? Working in social care is a rewarding career – to find out more about a career in adult social care, visit the [Herefordshire Cares website](#).



**BRINGING
HEREFORDSHIRE
TOGETHER**

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