



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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Delivery*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local  
Government**

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To: all Local Authority Chief Executives

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### **ROUGH SLEEPING COLD WEATHER FUND**

As you know, this government is committed to halving rough sleeping by 2022, and ending it altogether by 2027. Through the Rough Sleeping Initiative we are already working with areas with the highest levels of rough sleeping and have provided £30m funding this year.

We recognise that the cold weather period is particularly challenging and want to work with all areas to help make sure that they are able to support as many people off the streets as possible. As such, the Ministry is offering additional funding for all Local Authorities for the upcoming winter- until March 2019. The fund, capped at a maximum total of £5m, will be available to all local authorities in England.

The purpose of the fund is to enable Local Authorities, and their partners, to provide swift, bespoke interventions to rough sleepers in their area, as well as enhancement of existing services. The resources should be targeted at those clients who are currently unlikely to take up interventions this winter, either because services do not currently exist, or where there are barriers to individuals accessing or sustaining existing options. Whilst this funding is for the immediate cold weather period, further resources will be made available for 2019/20 through the Rough Sleeping Initiative, as well as the Rapid Rehousing Pathway, that can provide funding for other aspects of your rough sleeping pathway and into 2019/20. Further detail of these other funding opportunities is at Annex A.

In order for the Cold Weather Fund to have a rapid impact, the Ministry is providing funding on an underwritten basis. Local Authorities will be able to mobilise programmes (that meet the criteria as outlined in Annex B) as they see fit, and invoice MHCLG for amounts spent within the spending caps set out below. The caps are based on the autumn 2017 rough sleeping annual statistics, which is the best national data that we have available (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2017>).

<b>Rough Sleeping Numbers (2017)</b>	<b>Amount Cap</b>
≤ 5	£5,000
>5 ≤ 10	£10,000
>10 ≤ 25	£20,000
> 25	£35,000

Repayment will be based on confirmed spend for supporting rough sleepers (70% of reimbursement) and the submission of plans for sustaining rough sleepers supported off the streets in the medium-long term (30% of reimbursement).

#### **Delivery of the fund**

Local Authorities who believe they can make use of the additional cold weather funding to implement initiatives to support rough sleepers during the cold weather period this year should start mobilising their interventions rapidly. If you do want to utilise the fund please contact the Rough Sleeping Initiative team ([roughsleepinginitiative@communities.gov.uk](mailto:roughsleepinginitiative@communities.gov.uk)) to confirm your objectives are in line with those expected.

The procedure for receiving funding from MHCLG shall work as follows:

1. Confirmation from local authority that they wish to utilise the fund and discussions with the RSI team.
2. Claim forms, provided by the RSI team, for actual spend to be submitted including confirmation from your section 151 accounting officer of spend incurred. MHCLG review of claim amounts and scope.
3. Deadlines for claims will be the last Friday of each month (excluding March 2019, which will be on Friday 15 March).
4. Following approval, payments to be made through s.31 grant payments.

I hope that this approach will ensure effective and tailored initiatives within your areas that can quickly support rough sleepers off the streets and into safe, suitable and sustained accommodation.

I would like to thank you for the difficult and crucial work you have done over the last year in supporting and saving the lives of vulnerable people and look forward to continuing this good work.

Yours sincerely,



**JEREMY SWAIN**

## ANNEX A: Detail of funding streams

The below sets out some other funding streams available to support rough sleepers but is not an exhaustive list.

Funding Stream	Overview	Further Details
Rough Sleeping Initiative	<p>The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) was announced 27 March 2018. The RSI is backed by £75m over two years (£30m 2018/19 and £45m for 2019/20) and supported by a multi-disciplinary expert team who are working closely with local authorities. The initial RSI funding was targeted at those Local Authorities with the highest numbers of rough sleepers and funds interventions to prevent and relieve rough sleeping, and support people off the street. This funding is ring-fenced and carefully tailored to each Local Authority through MHCLG's RSI advisers.</p>	<p>More information on allocations for local authorities who are part of the RSI can be found on the Gov.uk website, including: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-initiative-to-reduce-rough-sleeping">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-initiative-to-reduce-rough-sleeping</a> and <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-announces-30-million-immediate-support-for-rough-sleepers">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-announces-30-million-immediate-support-for-rough-sleepers</a></p>
Rough Sleeping Initiative (£11M for 2019/20)	<p>£11m of the RSI's 2019/20 fund will be distributed amongst Local Authorities that are not currently receiving RSI funding (As per Jeremy Swain's letter of 19 September). Details of how to access this fund will be provided shortly. The fund will be focused on those areas which are developing partnerships, plans and effective interventions to achieve the goal of reducing the numbers of people sleeping on the streets of their city, town or rural area.</p>	<p>For any further questions please contact: <a href="mailto:roughsleepinginitiative@communities.gov.uk">roughsleepinginitiative@communities.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Further details will be provided shortly.</p>
Rapid Rehousing Pathway	<p>As set out in the Rough Sleeping Strategy, the Rapid Rehousing Pathway is our response to rough sleeping that focuses on quickly supporting rough sleepers into homes. It looks to fill in gaps to settled accommodation in current local pathways. The elements for funding are: Somewhere Safe to Stay pilots; local letting agencies; supported lettings and Navigators.</p>	<p>To express your interest for this funding, please contact: <a href="mailto:roughsleepingstrategyEOI@communities.gsi.gov.uk">roughsleepingstrategyEOI@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a> by midnight 31 October 2018.</p>
Private Rented Sector (PRS) Access Fund	<p>The purpose of the £20m PRS fund is to support private rented sector access schemes in local area, or boost the support offered by existing schemes to support homeless people into sustainable private rented sector accommodation. Schemes can include any type of intervention which is designed to increase access to, or sustain, private rented sector tenancies for those who are, or at risk of becoming, homeless. This could include, for example, support with paying</p>	<p>More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/private-rented-sector-access-fund-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/private-rented-sector-access-fund-prospectus</a></p> <p>The competition closes on 21 November.</p>

	deposits/rents, tenancy training, or mediation services.	
Move on Fund	<p>The Move on Fund is a grant of £100m delivered by Homes England and, in London, the GLA. Provision is for the construction, purchase, conversion, leasing or renovation, and reinstatement of properties. These are to be used exclusively as rented 'second stage' ("move-on") accommodation.</p>	<p>Full information can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/move-on-fund">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/move-on-fund</a></p> <p>And for the London fund at: <a href="https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/homesforlondoners-affordablehomesprogrammefundingsguidance.pdf">https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/homesforlondoners-affordablehomesprogrammefundingsguidance.pdf</a></p> <p>Organisations interested in applying for funding are invited to contact the Homes England area investment teams to discuss their proposals.</p>

## **ANNEX B: Fund parameters and conditions:**

Under the Cold Weather Fund, MHCLG will fund initiatives designed to support rough sleepers off the street this year. Examples of programmes MHCLG would be willing to fund may include, but is not limited to:

a) Enhancing access to accommodation options (up to the value of your average nightly cost for temporary accommodation), such as:

- Additional winter night provision
- Landlord incentives
- Increasing access to hostel beds

b) Enhancement of existing support services, such as:

- Street outreach
- In-reach support
- Engagement with non-UK nationals

Programmes MHCLG would not be willing to fund, as part of this specific fund, are those with long lead in times that will not have an impact over the cold weather period. These interventions, such as new building works, employability courses or additional rough sleeping co-ordinators will be considered as part of our longer-term funding for 2019/20.

Provision of the fund in reimbursement to Local Authorities will be conditional on:

- Local Authorities demonstrating evidence of effective outputs relieving individuals from rough sleeping and confirmation that any provision funded is providing additional capacity. Following a claim, MHCLG will reimburse 70% of spend.
- Payment of the remaining 30% will be contingent on evidence of plans to support and move on rough sleepers from short term interventions into medium-long term, sustainable solutions. If this plan is not sufficiently robust, the RSI team will support the Local Authorities in developing a suitable plan for the cohort. Further guidance on sustainability plans will be circulated.
- A maximum spend of £2000 per rough sleeper and a maximum cost of accommodation per night of the average nightly cost for temporary accommodation in your area.