



**St Helena
Government**

Welfare assistance scheme

Our welfare assistance scheme helps you get short term support, or help to live on your own - when you need it.

There are two types of help.

Daily living expenses

If your circumstances change unexpectedly, you can apply for help with your daily living expenses (for up to fourteen days). This includes

- food
- baby milk and nappies
- electricity
- basic travel

Settlement grant

A settlement grant will help you to stay in your home, or move back into housing, after living in supported or unsettled accommodation. This includes help towards:

- bedding
- essential kitchen items
- furniture
- floor coverings
- curtains

St Helena Governments Welfare Assistance Scheme is designed to help the most vulnerable in meeting their immediate short term needs or maintaining their independence in the community.

There are two types of Welfare Assistance available:

Daily living expenses to help meet your immediate short-term need for goods or services that arise due to a disaster or unforeseen circumstances. This may include direct payments to Connect or prepayment vouchers for food and travel.

Settlement grants to help you remain [in](#) your community, or move back into the community, after a period in supported or unsettled accommodation. This will be achieved by providing access to a range of standard items such as beds, bedding, furniture and white goods.

Daily Living Expenses (DLE)

A Daily Living Expenses (DLE) award will help you with short-term requirements, however, it may not resolve a crisis altogether. An award of up to £60 may be made and an additional £25 per child per week for a maximum of two weeks.

What will it cover? DLE will only cover the following: living expenses such as food, baby milk and nappies; emergency prepayment for lighting or reconnection charges; and travel expenses to hospital, emergency accommodation, benefits appointments and funerals.

How will I get paid? DLE will not be paid in cash. Instead you will receive your award in other ways, including: food voucher which can be redeemed in local stores; direct payment to Connect; and direct payment to travel operators (e.g. bus companies, taxis).

Only one DLE award will be made to you or your household within the same financial year unless there are exceptional circumstances which will be at the discretion of the Director of Safeguarding.

Settlement Grant A Settlement Grant will help you to remain in your home or move into a new home after a period in supported or unsettled accommodation.

There will be two stages to the assessment of a Settlement Grant application: assessment of need; and financial assessment.

What will it cover? A Settlement Grant can be awarded for: beds, tables, pans, utensils, crockery and cutlery, wardrobes, chairs/sofas, white goods, curtains/bedding.

How will I receive my award? The value of your award depends on your needs and an assessment of your financial situation.

A Settlement Grant **will not** be paid in cash. Your award will be made via a voucher, or goods will be provided up to the amount of the award. Please note that some items may be recycled. Settlement Grants have a maximum value of £350 and can only be accessed by an individual once every 24 months unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Qualifying conditions You must live in St Helena and have St Helenian status. You must be aged 16 or over and should have no other form of immediate financial assistance, for example family, friends, employer, savings or other available funding.

To qualify for a Settlement Grant, you should be receiving or about to receive Income Related Benefit, Unemployment Benefit or Basic Island Pension.

How do I apply? You can apply by telephone or via an appointment at Brick House.

We will carry out a financial assessment and we will ask you questions to help us understand your circumstances: including what benefits you currently receive or why you are not receiving any; how much your bills are; how much it costs you to live; and if you have access to any other form of finance, e.g. from an employer, family etc.

What can I do if I disagree with a decision? Once a decision on your Welfare Assistance application has been made, you will be notified of the outcome in writing and by phone. An appeal can be made by you, your appointee, carer, advocate or a third party, with your consent where appropriate.

An appeal about a DLE application should be made within five working days of the notification of the decision being made, or a longer period if considered reasonable.

An appeal about a Settlement Grant decision should be made within one calendar month of the notification of the decision being made.

The appeal will be dealt with by SHG Corporate Services.

Application Checklist

- Are you in St Helena and have St Helenian status?
- Are you over 16?
- How many dependents do you have?
- Do you have access to any other income at this moment in time?
- Has a financial assessment been carried out?
- Have you applied for benefits?
- Have you received welfare assistance within the previous 12 months?
- Have your support needs been assessed and a referral made to the appropriate service?

Costs of the Policy (would need to benchmark)

- £60 per week for a maximum of 2 weeks – adult applicant
- £25 per week for each child dependent for a maximum of 2 weeks
- Settlement grant –Maximum amount/value per applicant/family £350 within a 24 month period (unless agreed by the Director of Safeguarding).

Stakeholders

- MEM, Salvation Army, Human Rights Office
- Connect
- Retailers for vouchers and household goods
- Taxi firms

Governance

- Assessments undertaken by Safeguarding Staff
- Awards authorised by Team Manager and monitored by Safeguarding Finance
- Discretion allowed by Director and Assistant Director of Safeguarding
- Appeals to be managed by Corporate Services