

Guidance Notes

Electrical Safety First's Home Improvement Grants Scheme (2019-20)

Electrical Safety First has made £80,000 available to Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) and Care & Repair Agencies (C&RAs) UK-wide to improve electrical safety in the homes of vulnerable people.

Funding to agencies can be used to provide individual grants of up to **£500** to eligible clients and must be used **only** for **minor electrical works essential for electrical safety in the home**. Such works include, for example, repairs to broken light switches and sockets, and the provision of additional sockets.

1. Key dates and deadlines

- Applications for funding open: 8th Jan 2019
- **Applications close:** **28th Feb 2019**
- Shortlisting: 8th Mar 2019
- Notify if successful: 15th Mar 2019
- **Signed Agreement and Invoice deadline:** **22nd Mar 2019**
- **Funding Spent before** **31st Jan 2020**
- **Evaluation Report submitted no later than:** **28th Feb 2020**

2. What we provide:

- a. Funding of up to a maximum of £10,000 per agency.
- b. Electrical safety literature for the general public can be provided to all applicant agencies, whether or not awarded funding, to support their local electrical safety activity.

Please visit our website at www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk or email our helpline at enquiries@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk for further information on the leaflets available.

3. Who can apply?

- a. You **can apply** for funding if your organisation is a:
 - Not-for-profit organisation
 - Third sector organisation
- b. You are **not eligible to apply** if you are:
 - An individual
 - A commercial or profit-making organisation

4. Scope of work included in the Grants Scheme

The following types of essential minor electrical work can be carried out in vulnerable people's homes, using the Grants Scheme funding:

- a. Periodic inspections*
- b. Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)
- c. Repairs/replacement of lighting for safety reasons**
- d. Repairs/replacement of electrically-powered showers
- e. Repairs/replacement of immersion and water heaters
- f. Relocation or installation of additional electrical sockets to make them more accessible
- g. Replacement of broken accessories, such as light switches and sockets
- h. Necessary upgrading of earthing, bonding, RCD protection and consumer units
- i. Contribution towards the cost of a full or part electrical rewire – up to the maximum grant of £500 per property
- j. Other***

* If funding is used to carry out periodic inspections on behalf of beneficiaries, funded partners must ensure that they have sufficient funds available to carry out any remedial work essential for safety identified in the resulting condition report.

** Repairs to and/or installation of lighting for security reasons are outside the scope of the Grant Scheme funding.

*** Proposals for any other minor electrical work essential for safety identified by funded partners but not included above must be presented to Electrical Safety First in writing for consideration and approval prior to any Electrical Safety First-funded work being carried out.

5. Management and distribution of the funds to your clients

By accepting grant funding, the funded partners agree to the terms set out below:

- a. **Which of your clients are suitable for funding: Vulnerable people (homeowners)** who are means-tested benefit and/or state pension (with no other income) and/or registered disabled / life limiting illness.
- b. **How much per household:** Grants of up to a maximum of **£500** can be awarded **per client** with only one award per household.
- c. **Day-to-day management:** The day-to-day management of the Grant funding will be the sole responsibility of the funded partner, which includes bearing any administrative costs associated with the delivery of the funding.
- d. **Electrical work undertaken:** Funded partners agree that any and all electrical work arranged on behalf of clients will be carried out by electrical contractors registered with a Government-authorized registration body (England and Wales) or other recognised registration body (Scotland and Northern Ireland).

6. Application Terms and Conditions

- a. Only one application per agency will be accepted.
- b. Applications must be received by **28th February 2019**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.
- c. Applications are subject to agreement that the funding will be used to award grants only to vulnerable people in their local community and that it will be used only for minor electrical works essential for electrical safety in their home.
- d. Previously-funded agencies are only eligible to apply for funding this year if they successfully met the Electrical Safety First's delivery and evaluation reporting conditions for their previous funding.
- e. Applicants must agree to supply Electrical Safety First with at least one case study as part of their Evaluation Report once their funding has been spent.
- f. Successful applications will only receive funding once Electrical Safety First has received a signed copy of the Funding Award Agreement.

7. Data Capture

Please read the paragraph below and tick the box on the application form if you agree to Electrical Safety First using your details to contact you.

As a charity, Electrical Safety First is interested in speaking to people about their experience of electrical safety. From time to time, we may wish to contact you for research purposes, to help us improve safety advice and develop campaign activities. We may also use some of these case studies on our website and in other media whilst not disclosing the identity of persons concerned.

8. Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following basis:

- a. Application detail(s) being in scope of work.
- b. Demonstration of the agency's capacity and capability to identify the need for work, manage the funding, and to arrange and oversee the associated electrical work through to completion.

Electrical Safety First will shortlist and make the final decision on awards.

9. Electrical Safety First contact details

If you would like further information and/or clarification on any aspect relating of the Electrical Safety First's Home Improvements Grants Scheme, please contact:

Neelam Sheemar
Stakeholder & Events Manager
Email: neelam.sheemar@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk