

The Integrated Independent Living Funding Model and Minor Works Grant.

Summary.

This is a locally administered discretionary scheme aimed to ensure that clients who are undergoing a DFG or WHOP scheme can also have financial support to address serious housing disrepair. It is also available to homeowners who are vulnerable and are at serious risk of harm resulting from serious disrepair, within their property.

There is a 3 part test to determine eligibility for the grant:

- 1 They must meet the Financial Eligibility Criteria.
- 2 The disrepair being addressed must be Relevant Work.
- 3 The Client must have a relevant Vulnerability.

Introduction.

The Minor Works Grant is a discretionary scheme, not a mandatory grant with automatic eligibility criteria. It is meant to have a degree of flexibility because the people that we assist come from such complicated situations. This said it has been agreed that if work needs to be carried out to enable either a DFG or a WHOP grant these cases will effectively allow someone to be passported into the scheme. The third route into the scheme is only available to people who pass the Financial Eligibility Test, have serious disrepair (Cat 1 or high scoring Cat 2)that require Relevant Work to be carried out and are vulnerable or suffering a serious or long term health condition, with the aim of making sure that they can continue to live safely in their home.

Applications associated with a WHOP or DFG scheme.

All the referrals that come from the WHOP scheme won't need any financial, health or assessment of vulnerability because we have already determined that as applicants they are "vulnerable" by way of fuel poverty and have passed a financial test. Similarly anyone being offered a DFG won't need any financial, health or assessment of vulnerability because their disability evidences a long term health condition and they have also been Means tested.

Applications Associated with LMAPS.

Anyone referred through LMAPS will have met the vulnerability criteria. The LMAPS Vulnerability Matrix is used by LMAPS when carrying out a Vulnerable Adult Risk Assessment. Those highlighted in yellow are pertinent to our private sector housing and health functions. Those in blue probably won't apply as often. If a person referred by LMAPS is not applying for WHOP or a DFG they will still have to pass the Financial Eligibility test , is very similar to the WHOP financial test. The Matrix is shown below.

Independent or Officer Referrals.

With regards to this final eligibility route, if a case has not gone through WHOP, DFG or LMAPS the following applies. Firstly a person will need to pass the financial eligibility test, secondly we need to show that the work required is to remedy serious disrepair scoring as a HHSRS Cat D or above, and thirdly that they are vulnerable or have a long term health condition, using the factors listed above. Often these referrals will be generated by officers from NSDC or by our partner agencies. In these instances we will already be aware of a person's circumstances and there will be other partner agencies who can confirm a person's vulnerability or health condition.

For example officers might observe the following circumstances:

- Fire Safety Risks
- Self neglect and Public Health Risks relating to hoarding or filthy homes
- Risk of homelessness

These are recognised factors of vulnerability on the LMAPS list.

The following steps will then be followed.

- 1 **Financial Eligibility:** Complete MEANS test or evidence receipt of Council Tax Support
- 2 **Relevant Work:** Officer completes an assessment stating that there is disrepair causing a Cat 1 or High Scoring Cat 2 hazard, with simple schedule of required works.
- 3 **Declaration of Vulnerability:**
 - Client self declares that they consider themselves to have a disability or long term physical or mental health condition
 - The Env Health Officer or Housing Officer makes a statement referring to circumstances based on vulnerabilities are already evidenced, such as hoarding, F & V, homelessness, this evidence will satisfy the vulnerability test. (signed off later by Alan or myself)

If the officer has not witnessed this type of physical indication of vulnerability, the person will be asked to self-declare and provide either evidence that they are under continuing care of a health professional or a referee who could verify their other vulnerabilities: The following steps will then be followed.

- 1 **Financial Eligibility:** Complete MEANS test or evidence receipt of Council Tax Support
- 2 **Relevant Work:** Officer completes an assessment stating that there is disrepair causing a Cat 1 or High Scoring Cat 2 hazard, with simple schedule of required works.
- 3 **Declaration of Vulnerability:**
 - Client self declares that they consider themselves to have a disability or long term physical or mental health conditionOr
 - If with reference to the list shown (LMAPS) the client consider themselves to have other vulnerabilities that seriously effects their health or housing situation the case will be passed to LMAPS for multi-agency support. The referral for the Minor Works Grant will be via LMAPS route and not lead by Env Health.

The referee will only be contacted if the officer is not satisfied that they have enough information to make an informed decision. It is recognised that this is a subjective assessment, based on the same vulnerability factors listed above for LMAPs. For these reasons an application that is not generated from LMAPS, DFG or WHOP will be signed off by either the Environmental Health and Licensing Manger or Public Health Business Unit Manager.

Factors Indicating a relevant vulnerability, taken from LMAPS.

Factors leading to the LMAPS referral (tick as applicable):					
Has capacity?		Non-engagement		Community Concerns	
Agency concerns: such as social services being unable to deliver home care		Public safety issues: such as hoarding		Risk of serious harm or death due to housing conditions, Cat D or above	
Self-neglect, possible suffering from Diogenes can be associated with filthy living conditions		Fire safety concerns, including housing conditions		Serious or deteriorating health condition including mental health	
Targeted by local community		Hate Crime,		CBOs/CPN	
Risk of Homelessness, including living in an unfit house subject to a Prohibition Order		Self-Harm, included as an indication that someone is mentally vulnerable		Drugs and/or alcohol included as socially vulnerable	
Sexual Violence		Begging		Street Drinking	
Domestic Violence		ASB/Petty Crime		*Lack of support network inability to look after a house.	

If a person has a serious housing disrepair problem (Cat 1 or High Scoring Cat 2) and we are aware of any of the vulnerabilities shown in yellow above the person can apply for a Minor Works Grant. Vulnerabilities highlighted in Yellow can be substantiated by Environmental Health or Housing Services in partnership with agencies such as Social Services.

Vulnerabilities highlighted in Blue require a referral to LMAPS and will not be led by Environmental Health.