

Holiday food vouchers (HUGGG) have ended. What will replace these?

The government funded Household Support Fund, which was distributed by councils to support residents in East Sussex, ended nationally on 31 March 2026. This included the holiday supermarket voucher scheme (HUGGG vouchers) for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals. There are a number of alternative avenues of support for families, which are listed below:

Information for families

Families who are being supported through Early Help and Social Care in Children's Services may be eligible for support. Please discuss with your social worker, Early Help keyworker or support to find out more

For families with children:

- ESCC Family Information Service - 0345 60 80 192 (Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm) can provide advice and signposting to the process of accessing support
- If the family already has a Children's Services practitioner and a current intervention, then the practitioner can apply on the family's behalf.
- Families eligible for free school meals can get free activities and food through [Holiday food and fun](#).

For families with children and young people aged 0-25yrs with special educational needs and disabilities: • Amaze Sussex - amazesussex.org.uk - 01273 772289

Families can also find out more about the [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#).

If you need help now, see [cost of living support](#).

Background and summary

From 1 April 2026, the government introduced the new Crisis and Resilience Fund. The new fund now takes a different approach, with support focused on households experiencing immediate financial hardship or crisis, alongside help to build longer-term financial resilience.

As a result of these national changes to the Fund, the Council will no longer be distributing holiday vouchers to all pupils solely based on free school meal eligibility. Being eligible for free school meals will not automatically mean a household is entitled to a voucher or payment under the new fund.

However, support will continue to be available in different ways, but it will be assessed based on individual household circumstances and need.

The Cash for Kids Holiday Hunger Grants scheme supports children and young people (up to 18 years old) facing food insecurity during the school holidays. Schools can apply and projects must focus on outcomes that encourage children to eat more healthily and be more active during the school holidays. [Grant Application - Cash for Kids](#)