

A housing guide for refugees in Scotland

How to furnish your flat in Glasgow



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If you have received leave to remain in the UK and have recently been offered a secure flat to rent that is not furnished, this leaflet provides useful advice. It outlines general information on where to get assistance with furnishing your home and identifies available grants, loans and where you can buy furniture cheaply.

Note that this leaflet only provides brief information; full details about available loans and grants are provided on the websites listed below.

What grants are available to help me furnish my new home?

A community care grant is an amount of money available from the Social Fund to help you buy furniture, bedding and household equipment such as a cooker and a bed. It will **not** be awarded for other expenses like charges for storing your furniture, council tax, fuel costs or having a telephone installed.

The amount of money you'll receive depends on your circumstances.

The community care grant is not a loan and you do not have to pay it back. You can ask for money to buy each item you need; however, you will have to show that you require it. You must be on certain benefits to be eligible for this grant. If you are working, you are not eligible for this grant.

How do I find out more and apply?

Find out more about the community care grant, including eligibility and how to apply, on the Directgov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Caringfor someone/DG_10018921

If an agency is already helping you, you can ask them to assist you in completing the application form.

What loans are available to help me furnish my new home?

There are several loans available to help you furnish your new home.

Crisis Loan

The crisis loan is an amount of money available from the Social Fund to help you furnish your home in the instance of an emergency or disaster.

You will have to pay it back later, but no interest is charged on it. This means you only repay the amount you borrowed.

There is no set amount of money for the crisis loan. The amount you may be able to borrow depends on:

- your individual circumstances;
- any savings you have; and
- whether or not you have borrowed from the Social Fund before.

Budgeting Loans

If you're on a low income and need help with certain important costs, you may be able to apply for a budgeting loan from the Social Fund. In order to be eligible to apply, you **must** have been on Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or income related employment support allowance/pension credit **for 26 weeks before** applying for this.

You will have to pay it back later, but no interest is charged on it. This means you only repay the amount you borrowed.

How do I find out more and apply for a crisis or budget loan?

Find out more about the crisis and budget loan, including eligibility and how to apply, on the Department of Work and Pensions website:

- Crisis loan: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms/sf401_print.pdf
- Budget loan: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms/sf500_print.pdf

You can apply for a crisis or budget loan by completing an application at Jobcentre Plus. Their phone numbers and addresses are in the business section of the telephone book.

You can also contact Jobcentre Plus or your pension centre and ask them to send you claim form SF500. Or you can download the claim form from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website. The form comes with notes to help you fill it in and tell you where to send it.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms/sf500_print.pdf

If an agency is already helping you, you can ask them to assist you in completing the application form.

What other options are available to help me furnish my home?

Fab Pad

Fab Pad is an interior design project for young people aged 16 – 35 with a tenancy, who have possibly experienced homelessness. Fab Pad is run by an independent community arts project and aims to provide the skills necessary to make your house into home.

The interior design and tutor team work closely with participants to develop a plan for their flats, which is achievable (and allowed by the landlord). Weekly workshops, access to an interior designer and a budget are offered as part of the project.

Find out more about the project on the impact arts website: <http://www.impactarts.co.uk/fab-pad.htm> or call 0141 575 3001. If an agency is already helping you, you can ask them for more information about Fab Pads.

Starter Packs Glasgow

The charity Starter Packs Glasgow offers bed linen, pots and pans and other items for the home to people who were homeless and are now moving into a new home; there is a small administrative fee associated with the starter packs. You must be referred by a housing agency to the project. If you are already receiving help from a housing association, you can ask them to refer you to the project. Alternatively you can also ask your landlord about starter packs.

<http://www.starterpacks.org.uk/>

Emergency Furniture Packages

An emergency furniture package to get you started in your new home might be available from Glasgow City Council if you are not able to get a community care grant or money from other sources. However, emergency furniture packages are available **only in very exceptional cases**. Speak to your homeless caseworker at Glasgow City Council to find out more about emergency furniture packages.

Furniture Projects

Furniture Projects sell cheap furniture and carpets if you cannot afford to buy them from a shop. There are numerous furniture projects across Scotland. Below is a list of some of the main projects that you can visit in Glasgow

1. **Ruchill Furniture Project**, 89 Chapel Street, Maryhill, Glasgow, G20 9BD. Telephone 0141 945 2746.
2. **Second Opportunities**, 33 Dougrie Drive, Castlemilk, Glasgow, G45 9AD. Telephone 0141 631 3620. Also at 302 Broomloan Road, Glasgow, G51 2JQ. Telephone 0141 425 1177.
3. **Blythswood Furniture Project**, 35-37 Montrose Avenue, Glasgow. Telephone 0141 882 0585
4. **Emmaus**, 576 Dumbarton Road, Partick, Glasgow, G11 6RH. Telephone 0141 342 4089.
5. Also at 118 Ellesmere Street, Hamiltonhill, Glasgow, G22 5QT. Telephone 0141 353 3903.
6. **Spruce Carpets (for carpets only)**, Ferguson House, 308 Broomloan Road, Glasgow, G51 2JQ. Telephone 0141 425 1555.

Find out more about other furniture projects on the 'more than furniture' website:

http://www.morethanfurniture.org.uk/project_listing.php?authority=16