

Guidance Notes Electrical Safety First's Home Improvement Grants Scheme (2024-25)

Electrical Safety First has made £350,000 available to deliver its Home Improvement Grants Scheme (HIGS), aimed at improving electrical safety in the homes of vulnerable homeowners across the UK.

The scheme will work in partnership with Home Improvement and Care and Repair Agencies (funded partners), who will receive funding to coordinate minor electrical works for their eligible clients – vulnerable people who live in owner-occupied homes.

Care and Repair agencies can apply for grants up to £10,000. These funds can be used to provide individual grants of up to £500 per household. The grants are intended for minor electrical works essential for ensuring electrical safety. Eligible works may include repairs to faulty light switches or sockets and adding extra sockets to prevent overloading.

Funded partners must ensure that all electrical works are carried out by a suitably skilled, trained, and qualified electrician, who is registered with a competent persons scheme (CPS).

- For England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, you can use this website to find local electricians registered with a CPS: <https://electricalcompetentperson.co.uk/>
- For Scotland, you can use SELECT. NICEIC or NAPIT to find local, registered electricians: [SELECT – Postcode Search](#)
- [NICEIS – Find a Tradesperson](#)
- [NAPIT - Member Search](#)

Eligible clients will be identified by funded partners, who will then arrange for registered electricians to carry out the work.

Additionally, funded partners will be required to gather prescribed data and conduct research in the homes of clients receiving assistance.

1. Scope of work included in the Grants Scheme

Please see below for the types of minor electrical works that can be addressed by this funding.

- a. Period inspections i.e. an electrical safety inspection
- b. Repairs/replacement of lighting for electrical safety reasons
- c. Repairs/replacement of electrically-powered showers

- d. Repairs/replacement of immersion and water heaters
- e. Relocation or installation of additional electrical sockets to make them more accessible and reduce incidents of using extension leads
- f. Replacement of broken accessories, such as light switches and sockets
- g. Necessary upgrading of earthing, bonding, RCD protection and consumer units
- h. Contribution towards the cost of a full or part electrical rewire – up to the maximum grant of £1000 per property

2. Management and Referral Process

Please see below the guidelines for clients we would consider eligible to receive funded works through HIGS.

Tenure Status: Owner-occupants of residential dwellings.

Electrical Risk: Satisfy the parameters of the eligible minor electrical work described in this guidance note.

Vulnerability Status: Validate the householders fall under *at least* one of the following categories defining ‘vulnerability’, and must be unable to afford the works themselves:

- Live with a child under five years old,
- Live alone or with others and have reached state pension age,
- Live alone or with others and are disabled or chronically ill,
- Live with others who have reached state pension age or are disabled, chronically or under 18 years old.

3. Data Collection

As part of this project, we expect funded partners to coordinate a simple data survey for each property where work is carried out and conduct surveys with client beneficiaries.

These research elements are mandatory and a key part of the funding agreement.

They will help demonstrate the benefits HIGS and support its continuation in future years, as well as contribute to the development of Electrical Safety First’s wider activities.

4. To apply for funding:

Complete the application form accessible via this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/Tch6HfxSDF>

Please note – you must complete the application form in one sitting, as you are unable to save a draft on MS Forms. If you require a hard copy of the questions, please contact George Smith using the contact details below.

5. Key dates

Applications must be submitted via the MS Form, using the link above, by midnight on Monday, 31st March 2025.

Fund awards must be used (unless an extension is granted by ESF) by 31st August 2025.

Submission of evaluation reporting by 30th September 2025.

6. Electrical Safety First contact details

George Smith
Research and Outreach Officer, Electrical Safety First
george.smith@electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk