



One minute guide

No Recourse to Public Funds



Date: July 2025

Version: 1

What do we mean when we say someone has ‘no recourse to public funds’?

A person who has ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF) status cannot claim benefits or any money from the “public purse”. This is usually because they are subject to immigration control - for example they do not have British Citizenship or “leave to remain in the UK” (they do not have permission from the home office to be in the UK).

Why might someone have no recourse to public funds?

- This is usually because someone’s visa or ‘leave to remain’ says they cannot get this help. For example, they might be employed as a skilled worker, have a student visa or be a temporary ‘migrant’ (visitor to the UK).
- It could also be because they do not have permission to be in the UK.
- People from a European Union country (European Economic Area – EEA) who have settlement status have access to public funds; those who have pre-settlement status are identified as having NRPF. For those who do not have access to public funds in exceptional circumstances we may consider offering temporary support.

What are public funds?

Public funds include most benefits (Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Carer’s Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Housing Benefit etc) or things like access to council housing or support to fund private rented accommodation.

How can we help?

Sometimes people can get emergency help from the council if they have children and are homeless, or will be soon. People can only get help from the council's homeless team if they meet immigration conditions.

Children's Social Care keeps children safe and supports families. Usually they only help if no one else can. They expect the person to ask friends, family members, charities or community groups first.

In Nottinghamshire, we have a duty to assess the needs of those small number of people who have children in their care and have NRPF status and who consider themselves "destitute". There is clear policy and guidance in respect of this for Nottinghamshire Children's Social Care to follow.

Children's Social Care may be able to give people some immediate help if they are on the streets or need money for food. Contact them at: [Children's social care | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Further Help and advice for families:

- Contact the NRPF Network to find out more about support options: [Support options for people with NRPF | NRPF Network](#).
- Shelter can help in a housing emergency: [Housing support for families with no recourse to public funds - Shelter England](#).
- Visit the website for the refugee council: [Home - Refugee Council](#).
- Legal information and advice can be found on the Nottingham Law Centre website: [Immigration | Nottingham Law Centre](#).
- Contact Citizens Advice: [Immigration - Citizens Advice](#).

Key contacts

If you work for Nottinghamshire County Council and need further information, support or advice in relation to a child or family with no recourse to public funds who you are supporting then please contact:

Denis McCarthy (NRPF Lead) – denis.mccarthy@nottsc.gov.uk or

Gail Skillen (NRPF Social Work Practice Consultant) – gail.skillen@nottsc.gov.uk.