

£250,000 already given out by Flood Fund - are you eligible?

The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund has now given out £250,000 to help people affected by floods.

218 households have received £116,000 between them and the rest of the funding has gone to charitable organisations.

The average grant is around £500. However we have awarded up to £1,650 to people who have lost everything in the floods and have other needs as well. This might be because they have young children, lost their job due to the floods or are disabled or elderly and need special equipment.

"I have spoken to people who told me that they know of other people who are worse off and therefore they didn't think they could apply. If people are not sure they should phone on 01900 825760 and talk to one of our staff." said Susan Aglionby, Chair of the Grants Committee at Cumbria Community Foundation.

"We want people to know the Fund is very flexible and each application is assessed on the individual circumstances and an applicant can apply again four weeks later if they are still suffering financial hardship."

"We know that some people living upstairs in flats have not been flooded. However, living above an empty damp property means that they have to keep the heating on longer. If you are a pensioner or on a low income it will be difficult to find the extra money" explained David Andrews, Grants Officer. He added "People who are insured have also been supported, in particular where the insurance excess value was high in comparison with the household income."

Although the fund does not directly support businesses and self employed people, if a person or family has lost their income due to the floods and is struggling financially then they should contact the Community Foundation.

The Cumbria Community Foundation is keen to ensure that all those eligible for the fund apply. Forms are available from the Flood Recovery Centres around the county, from the website www.communityfoundation.org or phone on 01900 825760 and a form will be posted out.

The Fund total stands at £1.35m and fundraising events are still happening and it will continue to rise over the coming months.