



Rhan o raglen Cartrefi Clyd Llywodraeth Cymru
Part of the Welsh Government Warm Homes programme



Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest scheme

New Health Criteria - Partner Briefing



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Welsh Government is working to improve home energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty by investing in its energy efficiency Warm Homes scheme.

The Nest scheme provides householders living in Wales with access to free advice and support to help them reduce their energy bills. Those meeting Nest's eligibility criteria can access a free package of energy efficiency measures which will be recommended following a whole house assessment. These could include a new boiler, central heating system or insulation.

The Nest scheme's new health criteria aim to support people living with an eligible health condition and on a lower income who are at a higher risk of developing illness as a result of living in a cold home. The needs of people with disabilities, older people and families with young children have also been specifically addressed to ensure they can benefit from the scheme.

Eligibility criteria

Alongside the current criteria for people in receipt of a means tested benefit, the new health criteria for free energy efficiency home improvements are:

Someone resident in the home must:

- Be living with a chronic respiratory, circulatory or mental health condition. These include:
 - Respiratory disease (respiratory infections, broncho-constriction in asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Circulatory disease (including cardio-vascular disease, strokes and heart attacks)
 - Mental health issues (including depression, anxiety, psychosis and bipolar disorders, dementia, intellectual and development disorders).
- Live in an energy inefficient property (D, E, F or G rated EPC which we will determine over the phone with the customer)
- A home that is owned or privately rented (not Council or Housing Association). Additional criteria will apply to private landlords
- Be living on a low income below the defined thresholds

Evidence of a health condition

A customer will be asked to confirm that they have evidence of their health condition such as a prescription, medication package, treatment plan or GP/Hospital appointment or referral letter. This evidence does not need to be provided in advance. If a customer is found to be eligible, the evidence will be checked by our assessors when they visit the home.

Income thresholds

The income thresholds for the majority of customers are outlined below. These are based on total household income after housing costs.

Household composition	Annual household income (after housing costs)	Monthly household income (after housing costs)
1 or more adults aged 18 and over	£16,105	£1,342
1 or 2 adults and one or two dependants	£21,352	£1,779
1 or 2 adults and three dependants	£23,100	£1,930
1 or 2 adults and four or more dependants	£25,700	£2,140



Some groups of vulnerable people, who spend an above average time at home, are at a greater risk during the colder months.

- Older people (aged 75 and over)
- Families with young children (aged five or younger)
- People with disabilities (defined as a person having a mental or physical impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities)

For these householders who live with an eligible health condition, there is an increase of the income threshold to £21,352 after housing costs with savings of not more than £16,000 for older people aged 75 or over.

Household composition	Annual household income (after housing costs)	Monthly household income (after housing costs)
1 or more adults, including a disabled occupant or older person aged 74 and above or a child aged 5 or under	£21,352 (Plus, for those aged over 74, savings of not more than £16,000)	£1,779

Evidence

In addition to the health condition evidence outlined above, a customer can demonstrate their eligibility for the additional income threshold through the provision of a discretionary / disabled bus pass, blue badge or be registered with the local authority under section 18 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This evidence will be checked by our assessors when they visit the home.

How can you help?

If you identify someone with one of the eligible health conditions who could benefit from the support available, please ask them to call Nest or please feel free to contact us on their behalf if they would benefit from some additional support. You do not need to have any knowledge of the customer's property or income – we will assess this with them directly.

What happens next?

A member of the Nest team will carry out a property assessment over the phone. If the property is found to be energy inefficient, we will undertake a household income assessment.

If the customer meets the income criteria, we will arrange for a Nest assessor to visit their home to look at what energy efficiency home improvements we could provide, at no cost, to heat the home more efficiently and reduce energy bills.

Something for everyone

If the customer does not meet the criteria, we will provide free advice on saving energy and signpost them to other schemes that may be able to help them.

More information

Information on the Nest scheme is available at:

www.nest.gov.wales

Freephone 0808 808 2244