

Budget Measure 2026:

Credit for voluntary organisations related to disability and animal welfare on the electricity and water bill This Government recognises the vital role of voluntary organisations in our country and their significant socio-economic impact. To support this, voluntary organisations that work in the fields of disability and animal welfare will receive a favourable incentive on their electricity and water bills, which are currently billed at non-residential rates.

Utility Bills Support Scheme for VOs

1. Purpose of the Scheme

This Scheme, which is managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) under the Ministry for Inclusion and Voluntary Organisations, is intended to provide enrolled Voluntary Organisations, working in the disability and animal welfare sectors, with financial assistance in relation to their current expenses related to water and electricity bills.

2. Eligible Criteria

Eligible applicants are Voluntary Organisations which have the following criteria:

- a) Voluntary Organisations which are enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO).
- b) Voluntary Organisations which are enrolled with the OCVS with disability and animal welfare as their main objective of operation.
- c) Voluntary Organisations which have premises owned or leased by the same Voluntary Organisation, having utility bills registered in the name of same Voluntary Organisation.

3. Budget

The Scheme shall have a budget of **€100,000**.

4. Eligible Financial Support

Voluntary Organisations are eligible for the following financial support:

- a) Voluntary Organisations which are enrolled with OCVO and fall under financial Categories 1 and 2 shall receive a maximum of €1,500 per calendar year.¹
- b) Voluntary Organisations which are enrolled with OCVO and fall under financial Categories 3 shall receive a maximum of €2,500 per calendar year. .

¹ The Financial Categories are split into Category 1 (income <€50k), Category 2 (income €50k–€250k), and Category 3 (income >€250k) These categories are based on the annual income declared by Voluntary Organisation in their financial returns presented to OCVO.

5. Exclusion Criteria

Potential applicants may not participate in this call for proposals or be awarded funds if:

- a) The Voluntary Organisations is **not compliant** with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) for the financial year 2024.

6. Eligibility Period

This call shall cover utility bills for the period 1st January 2026 to 31st December 2026.

7. Application Procedure

The applicant Voluntary Organisation shall:

- a) Complete the appropriate e-application form.
- b) Together with the e-application submit a true copy of the last utility bill for 2025 which is specific to the premises declared as owned or leased by the same VO.

Only proposals that are supported by the said documentation will be considered for reimbursement under this Scheme.

8. Approval of Grant under this Scheme

When the Scheme application is accepted, the Voluntary Organisation shall be invited to sign a grant agreement establishing the procedures and obligations to be followed by both parties under this Scheme.

9. Payments of Grant under this Scheme

- a) MCVS shall pass on the financial support in two tranches.
 - i. The **first tranche** to be paid in July 2026 for **bills incurred and paid** between January 2026 and June 2026.
 - ii. The **second tranche** in January 2027 for **bills incurred and paid** between July 2026 and December 2026.

Payments are undertaken until the applicant VO reaches its approved maximum financial support.

10. Verification

MCVS shall verify all documentation with the appropriate entities prior to issuing relevant payments.
