

Cystic Fibrosis Trust Support Service

Guidelines for Welfare Grants

The General Welfare Fund exists to help families and adults with cystic fibrosis (CF) experiencing particular difficulty at a time of stress or crisis related to cystic fibrosis. We consider most areas of need, but because the financial help requested each year exceeds the resources available we are forced to restrict grants to areas of urgent need where a grant will have an immediate effect.

There are two types of Welfare Grants, **Emergency Grants** and **Health and Wellbeing Grants**.

Emergency Grants

We offer three types of emergency grants which include funeral expenses, costs associated with having a transplant or transplant assessment and small grants. Please see below;

- Help with funeral costs. (limited to £750, separate application form.)
- Help with costs during hospitalisation whilst having a transplant or assessment (limited to £250). We understand that when going to hospital, you may not have time to apply for a grant, so you can apply for a transplant grant up to two months after your hospital stay. You can apply for one grant to cover costs incurred during a transplant assessment, and a further grant for costs when having a transplant.
- Small grants for emergencies. (Up to £150.) These are to help with emergency needs and can include things like:
 - Purchasing essential, smaller cost items, eg: hypoallergenic pillows and mattress.
 - Emergency household repairs, eg: leaks causing damp and mould.
 - Unexpected travel or other costs for informal carers, eg: to look after your child if you have a long hospital stay.
 - Services such as professional cleaning of a new home where the level of dust and dirt would adversely affect health.
 - Annual Prescription pre-payment certificate for people unable to meet their prescription costs (one-off grant).

When applying for small grants you should tell us how much the goods, services or repairs are going to cost. You can still apply for a small grant after you have made the purchase, paid for the services or met the costs yourself, but should apply as soon as possible.

Emergency grant applications will need a simple confirmation statement from a health care professional, such as a specialist CF centre social worker, clinician or nurse.

Health and Wellbeing Grants

Health and wellbeing grants help purchase goods or services which can improve the health and quality of life of people living with cystic fibrosis.

Typical goods purchased can include:

- Exercise equipment, refrigerators, washing machines, tumble dryers, furniture when moving to a new home.

Typical services can include:

- Gym fees, repairs to home costing over £150

Decisions on health and wellbeing grants are made by an independent grants panel which meets every two months. The panel might decide to award the grant request in full or make a payment that is less than the amount requested. If an application is successful, payments will be made within a week of the decision.

Unfortunately, there may not be sufficient resources to meet all the grant applications we receive. If this is the case, the application may be turned down, awarded an amount that is less than the amount that was applied for, or deferred to the next panel. If this is the case, applicants will be notified in writing within a week of the decision.

To help our panel make decisions, please use the application form to provide as much information as possible about why a grant is needed and how it will benefit the applicant's health and wellbeing.

We also ask that you are realistic about how much the goods or services you are applying for will cost, as this helps us to ensure we can provide grants to as many people as possible, and helps our panel when they make decisions about how much to award for each grant. You may also want to include a quote/print-out to show how much the good/services will cost.

In the application we ask about specific reasons why you may not be able to meet these costs. For example:

Low household income less than the Joseph Rowntree Foundation-assessed Minimum Income Standard, reduction in income due to benefits being withdrawn or put on a lower rate following PIP, ESA or other benefits reassessment, a reduction in benefits following assessment as an adult at age 16, loss of employment or reduced working hours, leaving the family home or leaving full time education. The above reasons are not exhaustive and there may be other reasons which we will take into consideration.

You can apply for grants for goods and services that you have already purchased, up to two months before the date of your application. **Please note that we cannot guarantee that the application will be successful, and even if successful, you may receive an award less than the amount requested. Please provide as much information as possible on the application form.**

Payment of welfare grants can be made by cheque or BACS transfer to your bank account. If you do not have a bank account we can arrange for the payment to be made to a trusted third party.

Application forms and further advice can be downloaded from our website, www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk, or obtained by telephoning our Helpline on 0300 373 1000 or emailing helpline@cysticfibrosis.org.uk

Holidays

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust provides grants towards the cost of holidays, trips and short breaks for people aged over 25 who have cystic fibrosis. The grants are administered by the Cystic Fibrosis Holiday Fund (CFHF). To apply for a holiday grant, please contact the CFHF or visit their website where you will find the application form: www.cf-holidayfund.org.uk or contact the Cystic Fibrosis Trust Helpline on 0300 373 1000.

Holiday grants are usually for £200-£300 and can be used to fund costs associated with taking a holiday, including the cost of travel insurance or oxygen on holiday/while travelling. The Cystic Fibrosis Trust Helpline can provide information on companies that may offer reasonably priced travel insurance, and advice on how to minimise the cost of oxygen. We advise you to organise travel insurance and oxygen as far in advance as possible.

We have limited funds available for holiday grants, and we have to prioritise those most in need of a holiday. Please provide as much information as possible when applying for a grant.

The CFHF also funds and provides grants towards holidays for those who have cystic fibrosis and are aged 25 and under. Please contact them directly for information and to find out how to apply. www.cf-holidayfund.org.uk/