

CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRUST SUPPORT SERVICE

Guidelines for Welfare Grants

The General Welfare Fund exists to help families and adults with 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.

Consideration is given to requests in the following areas:

- Assistance to purchase household items that will directly benefit the health of the person with Cystic Fibrosis.
- Assistance for those setting up home for the first time (limited to a maximum of £300).
- Funding the first annual prescription prepayment certificate.
- Providing help with the cost of a break or holiday after a period of stress or crisis (limited to a maximum of £300). Funding is mainly given to adults with CF as we refer families of children with CF to the Cystic Fibrosis Holiday Fund and other funds that provide grants for holidays for children. Contact the Welfare Grants Officer for more information about this and other charities that fund holidays for children and families.

To ensure that we can help as many people as possible with our limited resources, a holiday grant is usually awarded to people who have not had a holiday for 2 years (other than under exceptional circumstances) and up to a maximum of 2 grants per person.

- Paying for help at home or purchasing items which may facilitate an earlier discharge from hospital or prevent a hospital stay. (See separate sheet on The Edward W Joseph CF Home Care Programme.)
- Help with costs during hospitalisation whilst having a transplant or assessment (limited to £250). We can also help with the carer's costs in this case.
- Help with funeral costs. (Limited to £750, separate application form.)

We do not give grants to pay outstanding bills or debts or to meet ongoing costs.

Our funds are limited and our grants are small, we are therefore unable to help with house adaptations or the cost of buying a car or computer. However, we try to find other sources of funds that you can apply to and we do our best to meet requests that

see off cf

www.cftrust.org.uk

Patron: HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, KG, GCMG President: Duncan Bluck CBE

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are unlikely to be considered by any other organisation. Therefore before we consider whether we can make a grant from the Welfare Grants fund, we go through the following steps:

- 1) We look for assurance that you have approached all statutory sources and your claim has been reasonably rejected by them, e.g:
 - Benefits Agency regarding welfare benefits, grants or loans under the Social Fund;
 - Local Authority who have legal duties under The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act;
 - Health Authority e.g. in providing equipment and travel to hospital.
- 2) We make sure that other charities (local and national) are not able to help with equipment or other appliances.
- 3) We establish the general circumstances of the applicant, the background events leading to the application, the nature of the need (short term, long term etc) and whether similar requests for grants from the applicant have been met before.
- 4) We obtain a breakdown of the particular expense and any appropriate documentation that will enable us to make a decision whether to make a grant and for what amount.

The purpose of this is to help you get what you need and ensure that our limited funds are used the most effectively for as many people with CF as possible.

All applications must be endorsed by a social worker or other health professional who has been involved in supporting the person with Cystic Fibrosis. The application will therefore be dealt with more efficiently if it has already been endorsed before sending it to us. Individuals may apply to us direct by completing our application form for a welfare grant.

We strongly advise that individuals or their health professionals contact the Welfare Grants Officer prior to submitting an application. This saves time and prevents disappointment if an application is rejected because it does not fall within the grant criteria. Processing of applications is also more efficient if full particulars of the applicant are given (including date of birth and post code) and the name of the health professional is clearly stated.

Application forms and further advice can be downloaded from our Website, or obtained by telephoning the Welfare Grants Helpline on 0845 859 1020.