

Handsworth Charity

Eligibility

Individuals in poverty or social disadvantage that live within the Ancient Parish of Handsworth can make an application to the Charity. Applicants must be permanent residents of the Charity's geographical area - [click here to check your eligibility](#). The post codes to bear in mind are: B18, B19, B20, B21, B42, B43, B44.

Applications made by a referral or sponsoring organisation that has known or worked with the individual for several months will only be considered.

As a small Charity with limited funds and staff resources we are not able to address the underlying causes of poverty or social disadvantage, so we are not in a position to eliminate local poverty. We look to give grants that will reduce hardship and improve wellbeing. **Small grants of no more than £750 are considered by Trustees** to any one applicant to alleviate short-term difficulties that relate to a situation of poverty. Grants are only awarded to applicants on a restricted income.

Grants may be made to help with essential household items and goods such as bedding, carpets, cookers, fridges, small property repairs. Other considerations where a contribution may be made are clothing, educational books and materials, travel costs to attend educational institutions, IT equipment (such as tablets and laptops) that will be needed for accessing key services online for the household or supporting education or training.

Trustees will not consider:

- paying for equipment/good/ work where statutory funding is available.
- paying wages.
- paying legal fees.
- settling debts.
- paying for items/work retrospectively.
- generally, repeat grants to individuals, and only in exceptional circumstances.

Our income is derived from our investment portfolio, and we receive many more applications than we can fund.

Guidance

We prefer to accept completed application forms sent by email but will accept postal applications. Trustees welcome applications for grants from all sections of the community that reside within the Ancient Parish of Handsworth and decisions that are made have regard to the Charity's available funding levels. Our Equal Opportunities Policy is available on request.

Trustees and the Secretary **do not make visits to individual applicants that makes an application either to help in the assessment of their application or to follow-up the use of the grant.** It is **expected that the referral agency will directly follow-up with their client/user that seeks to make an application or has been given a grant** to verify the information provided.

We generally do not pay applicants direct and only in exceptional circumstances or make cash payments. **We expect a sponsoring or referral organisation to help complete the application, and the person named as the referring person in the sponsoring organisation will be expected to take responsibility for administering a grant offer on behalf of the applicant and ensure that evidence of the use of grant for the purposes it was given is provided.**

Referral organisations need to demonstrate that they have been working with a client for at least 3 months addressing either welfare, housing, immigration or debt management. The organisations

need to be registered charities and demonstrate they are for public benefit and have a dissolution clause in their constitution.

Applications can be received throughout the year. We will endeavour to acknowledge your application within 2 weeks of receiving it. Trustees meet 4 times a year – March, June, September, December. In exceptional circumstances applications that are deemed to be of an urgent nature can be considered by Trustees in between Trustees meeting and we would endeavour to provide the outcome of the Trustees' decision within a month of it being received. If your application is taken to a Trustees meeting for consideration, then the outcome will be communicated within 2 weeks of the meeting. All grant applications are assessed on an individual basis. Trustees' decision is final and as a small Charity with limited resources, we are not in a position to enter into any correspondence or discussion with unsuccessful applicants or their sponsoring/referral organisation.

The confidentiality of your personal information is of paramount concern to us. We will process and hold your personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Our Privacy Policy is available on request.

If you have any questions or queries please email: info@handsworth-charity.co.uk