

WORCESTER MUNICIPAL CHARITIES (CIO)

11. Relief in Need Grants & Grants to Promote Education for Individuals in Need

GENERAL POLICIES & PRACTICES – ADVICE FOR SUPPORT WORKERS & APPLICANTS

It is the Charity's policy not to make a grant if adequate funds are available from:

1. **Family/Friends**
2. **DWAS** for white goods - www.worcester.gov.uk/discretionary-welfare-assistance-scheme
3. **DWP** for a Budgeting Loan - www.gov.uk/budgeting-help-benefits/how-to-claim
4. **Health Authority** for disability aids - www.hacw.nhs.uk/our-services/equipment-service
5. **County Council** for child care services - www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20097/children_families_communities
6. **Student Finance England** for promotion of education - www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance/how

The application form must be endorsed to show that all 6 options have been considered and with what result. Failure to do so will mean the application will be deferred to enable these enquiries to be made.

The Grants Committee will consider the income and expenditure sheets of each applicant and their ability to meet their own needs, with budgetary assistance from the CAB/WHABAC and the Credit Union if required.

Applications may be turned down if the applicant has not demonstrated financial hardship, or is seriously mismanaging his/her income by spending excess amounts on luxury items like "Sky TV" rather than on necessities like food and clothes. Individual budgetary advice may be provided by the CAB Money Adviser in such cases.

To consider, as a condition of any grant to an individual, the possibility of debt advice, usually with help from CAB/WHABAC and sometimes from the 6 Towns Credit Union also.

Not to commit the Charities to repeat a grant to an individual or organisation.

The Trustees reserve their complete discretion in all cases.

GRANTS FOR RELIEF IN FINANCIAL NEED

Can be considered for people living in Worcester City only.

All applications from an individual for a relief in need grant must be endorsed by a support worker from the statutory or voluntary bodies in Worcester, using the forms available on the charity's web-site. The support workers are relied upon to provide to applicants such additional help that the applicant may require e.g. in respect of their vulnerability and other needs.

One-off grants can be considered for "essential" items like cookers, fridges, fridge freezers, washing machines, clothes airers, food, clothes, fuel bills, carpeting, a television, a vacuum cleaner, other household items; exceptionally help may be considered for holidays or holiday activities.

The Trustees judge as "essential" those items that people generally nowadays feel they cannot manage without, and that form part of an expected way of life in today's society.

GRANTS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION

Can be considered for people in need, of any age, living in Worcester City, the Parishes of Powick, Bransford and Rushwick, and the Ancient Parish of Leigh.

Applicants for educational grants do not need a support worker but references/reports may be requested from the institution concerned.

Applications may be considered from people of any age who live outside these areas but who have attended school in the City for at least two years.

The Trustees will not normally consider applications from persons attending educational establishments in the City who, prior to enrolling, lived outside these areas for two years or more, and/or who still live outside them.

The Trustees will not normally consider applications from persons attending educational establishments with national catchment areas e.g. the New College (for the blind) and Worcester University, unless they were resident in the area of benefit for at least two years, or attended school in the area of benefit for at least two years, prior to enrolling at the relevant institution.

Applications in respect of fee-paying institutions, for travel abroad, and awards beyond 1st Degree level are normally excluded.

Assistance with school uniform grants is not provided in the light of the Government's Pupil Premium payments to schools for such purposes. Any requests for non-distinctive clothing may be considered for a "relief in need" grant based on family income and expenditure.