

MACMILLAN GRANT APPLICATIONS

Macmillan Grants

Since 1924 Macmillan Grants have been helping people meet the financial needs that can arise from cancer or its treatment. Our grants are typically under £400. Every week we give grants to over 600 people.

Our grants can help meet a wide range of practical needs arising from cancer, such as to:

- purchase new clothes needed because of changes to body shape or size
- pay high heating bills incurred when more susceptible to feeling cold during chemotherapy
- cover the cost of a much needed short holiday in the UK during, between, or after treatment, or when no further treatment options are available

We can also help with more specific requests that will help improve a person's comfort or quality of life. If you are unsure whether a request for a grant will be successful, please contact us first for an informal discussion, prior to submitting an application.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for a grant a patient must meet our eligibility criteria:

- Have a cancer diagnosis, or still be affected by cancer, or its treatment
- Be a UK resident
- Have not more than £6,000 in savings (if a single person) or £,8000 savings (if a couple or family)
- Have a low income (please see our website for details of our financial criteria)
- The request for the grant must demonstrate a clear link to the impact of cancer and its treatment

Who Can Submit a Grant Application?

All grant applications must be supported by two professionals acting on behalf of a person affected by cancer:

- **Person 1:** A healthcare professional, a benefits adviser, a social worker or acting in some other professional capacity with, or on behalf of, a person affected by cancer. This person is "The Applicant" who leads the submission of the application, completes Part 4 and should be familiar with a patient's situation, and able to provide any further information required.
- **Person 2:** A Macmillan nurse, clinical nurse specialist, hospital doctor, GP or any other Macmillan health care professional involved in a patient's care and able to complete a Medical Report which contains medical details about a person's cancer diagnosis, prognosis and the impact of the cancer on the individual. This must be a different person than Person 1.

We do not accept self-referrals completed by people living with cancer or their family/friends acting on their behalf. If a self referral is received, the application will not be considered until we receive further supporting information from a health or social care professional.

The Applicant's Role

We aim to help as many qualifying people as possible meet their particular needs. Health and social care professionals working with cancer patients help us to achieve this by taking on the role of an "Applicant" and submitting applications on behalf of a patient. Each Applicant plays an important role as a "gatekeeper" for the Macmillan Grants Service by ensuring funds are used to help people living with cancer who are most in need of financial support.

Making a Successful Grant Application

In conjunction with the medical report and financial information, the "Supporting Information" is a significant part of the application. The information provided will inform our decision to make a grant and determine the value of the award. This section should be used to present a compelling case. The more compelling the case, the more likely the application will be successful. This section should be focused on explaining:

- the specific needs that have arisen from, or are related to, cancer and /or its treatment
- how the financial help requested will help to address the identified needs

It can be useful to include the following information:

- Specific information about how the amount of financial support requested has been estimated EG:
 - "10 visits by car to St Thomas Hospital (a 30 mile round trip) over a one month period" or
 - "A convalescent break in Cornwall for three nights in July at a cost of £X per person for accommodation and £X per person for travel"
- A fuller picture of the package of support provided to the person, EG:
 - advice is being provided on benefit entitlement
 - help requested and/or provided from the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme
 - a community care grant application has been made

We will consider an application whether or not there are other forms of support.

In determining a potential grant award the Grants Team will consider:

- The extent to which there is a compelling case about the need for financial support at this time
- The existence of a clear connection between the impact of cancer and the items or services requested
- If information in the Medical Report corroborates the information provided in the Supporting Explanation

- The prognosis. There may be urgent, pressing, unmet needs that cannot be met and/or the outlook is poor and quality of life is an issue
- Whether a grant has been made to the patient previously. Unless the patient's circumstances have significantly deteriorated for an identified reason, it may not be possible to provide further financial help on more than one occasion but the merits of individual cases will be assessed
- Whether or not the estimated cost of an item or service is reasonable, and if there is an explanation for costs that seem higher than would generally be expected
- Whether there are statutory resources, patient's family resources or any other alternative forms of support available
- Has there been an impact on a family's financial situation (e.g.: working age with mortgage and child care responsibilities)? Or have needs significantly increased? Is comfort or quality of life an issue?

Each application is individually assessed on its own merits and all information provided is fully considered.

Please note: The fact that an individual is experiencing financial problems is not a sufficient reason in itself to justify a grant. The request for financial support must always demonstrate a clear connection between a financial need and the impact of cancer.

If you would like to submit a grant application on behalf of a patient and have not submitted a grant application before, please contact us to obtain an Application Form:

Email:
macmillangrants@macmillan.org.uk

Website:
<http://www.macmillan.org.uk/HowWeCanHelp/FinancialSupport/MacmillanGrants.aspx>

General Enquiries: **020 7091 2476**

Macmillan Welfare Rights Team: can provide advice on benefits. They can be contacted on **0808 808 0000**, Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm.