



**Lend a Hand,
Change a Life.**

**Lancaster
District
Street Aid**

Grant Programme Guidance

Overview

Street Aid is a small grants fund for people who have been recently homeless or vulnerably housed in the Lancaster District.

Objective

Donations to the fund generate a pot of funding that supporting organisations (such as charities, faith groups, community associations, or public bodies) can apply to on behalf of an individual or family, in order to get them practical help to stay off the streets.

Support

Types of support that can be accessed via the scheme include:

- Access to housing (such as short-term accommodation while waiting for Universal Credit payments to begin),
- furniture,
- small appliances such as microwaves, air fryers, fridges etc. (but excluding appliances which require installation by a qualified electrician, such as ovens),
- other home essentials,
- clothing (including for job interviews, or safety gear for jobs when not provided by the employer),
- transport vouchers (for a defined need such as getting to health care, support activities, sports, or work),
- and help with finding work (such as qualifications, certifications, or equipment tickets),

but are not limited to these. We will consider anything which helps people stay off the streets.

Who can apply?

Individuals cannot apply for grants. Applications are made by a supporting organisation on behalf of the individual or family, who must be residing in or closely linked to the Lancaster district. If funding is approved, we send it on to the organisation who spend it on the agreed items.

We accept applications from any organisation that works with recently homeless or vulnerably housed people and considers the individual or family they work with to need help from Street Aid.

We will keep the details of applicants and recipients confidential, unless they agree otherwise in writing following a request from us after their successful application.

The fund has a limit of one award per recipient (the individual or family) in any six-month period and no more than two awards in an 18-month period (timed from the date of the first award) – other than in exceptional circumstances. Please note that unsuccessful applications will not be counted towards this limit.

There is no limit to the number of recipients an organisation can apply to support.

How much can be applied for?

The maximum total application value is £750, however the average grant value made since the scheme launched has been around £330. Larger applications should clearly demonstrate an urgent and severe need for support.

Payments will be made to the supporting organisation's nominated bank account, by BACS, for expenditure on the agreed items.

If a supporting organisation's internal financial regulations prevent them receiving money on behalf of people they support, LDCVS can make arrangements to purchase the goods and send them to the organisation for onward distribution.

Other sources of support

Street Aid is intended as a last resort source of support, as it relies on public donations. When applying for a Street Aid grant, you must tell us about the other places where you have already tried and failed to access the required goods and services.

Other sources of support include:

- Lancaster City Council Household Support Fund - www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/cost-of-living/financial-support-for-households

- Lancashire County Council / Selnets Under One Roof - www.selnets-uk.com/selnets-under-one-roof

LDCVS also offers alternatives to Street Aid grants as part of our grant-making and community health programmes, which may be suitable for some people's needs:

- For young people aged 16-24 facing social and/or financial barriers to accessing education, training, or employment, the Banks Lyon Memorial Trust Step Up fund offers grants of up to £250 for goods and services which help them progress on the route to employment. Contact Catherine Westwell at catherinewestwell@lancastercvs.org.uk for further information.
- Travel vouchers to help people on low incomes access community support services can be supplied as part of our social prescribing offer in partnership with the district's Primary Care Networks, the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, and the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. Contact Jenny Reddell at jennyreddell@lancastercvs.org.uk for more information.

How to apply

Applications must be made online by the supporting organisation at morecambebay.grantplatform.com. They can be saved and returned to before submission, so applications can be completed over several sessions if desired.

Supporting organisations will need to tell us these things about the beneficiary:

- Their name and contact details, and some demographic information such as age and ethnicity.
- Their history of homelessness, their current circumstances, and their link to the Lancaster district.
- What they want to apply for including the cost, and details of a quote for any item which costs over £150.
- How the award will contribute towards helping them stay off the street.

They will also need to tell us:

- Where they or the beneficiary have tried to source this help elsewhere, before applying to Street Aid.
- If they are applying to buy a brand-new item, whether they or the beneficiary have tried to find an equivalent second-hand item.
- Details of a bank account belonging to the supporting organisation, where funds will be paid, to be spent on the beneficiary's behalf.

They will need to upload:

- A supporting statement from the beneficiary confirming they want the supporting organisation to make an application on their behalf, and that they agree with the information being submitted in the form.
- Quotations for any items costing more than £150. This could be a formal written quote, or a link to a website showing the price.
- Proof of address for the recipient if the request is for items which enhance their accommodation, such as carpets or paint.
- A bank statement/paying in slip confirming the supporting organisation's bank account details, or confirmation that the organisation is unable to receive money on behalf of people they support and would like LDCVS to procure the items for onward distribution.

Conditions

At the end of the application process, the supporting organisation making the application must agree that they will:

- Use the grant within two months of receipt, by spending the money awarded to purchase the agreed items on the beneficiary's behalf.
- Send receipts for their purchases to LDCVS via funding@lancastercvs.org.uk
- Ensure, as far as possible, that items purchased remain the property of the person or family they have been awarded to.
- Explain to the recipient that the items must remain their property.
- When requested, explain to those managing Street Aid how the grant has helped the person or family, for use in publicity. We will not identify individuals or their supporting organisations without their consent.

Decisions and help

We aim to make decisions about grants as quickly as possible and usually within ten working days of receiving an application.

If you have any questions about applying, please contact Nick Smith at LDCVS by email at nicksmith@lancastercvs.org.uk