

Application process for referrers

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cambridge-street-aid>

All applications for a Street Aid grant should be made by a referring agency or other organisation on behalf of the homeless person (the applicant or beneficiary). The referrer must be able to verify the needs and circumstances of the person who will benefit from the grant. The fund is not for emergency support and applicants must have a real connection with Cambridge. See page 3 for guidelines on prices.

Grants are never paid directly to the beneficiary: the referring agency receives the money and supports their client to purchase the items/services. If your organisation is unable to receive funds (eg NHS or probation service) please email StreetAid@cambridge.gov.uk for advice.

Registration

Click the 'Apply Online' button on the Cambridge Street Aid webpage (link above) to register an email account. A link to the online application form will be sent to the email address you provide.

Save your application as you go through by clicking the 'Save Application' button on the right hand side of the screen.

Section 2

Beneficiary's history of rough sleeping or street lifestyle

- Please describe how your client came to be homeless, providing dates when they were rough sleeping if applicable. You must tell us date the applicant was **rough sleeper verified** in Cambridge City.
- Tell us what engagement they have had with homelessness services and whether they have spent any time in hostels or other supported accommodation. Please explain why this has failed if they have gone back to rough sleeping.
- If they have been sleeping in temporary accommodation but have a lifestyle that is spent on the streets, please tell us about this and how this may be preventing them from moving on to more stable accommodation.
- Tell us what connection they have with the city: did they grow up here or do they have family in the area?

What the grant is for

- What will the money be spent on? Please itemise with costs. However, for clothes you can summarise rather than listing every t-shirt or pair of trousers required. You must supply quotes for high value items such as carpets, white goods, training courses etc.

Section 3

Impact of a Cambridge Street Aid grant

- Please tell us how a grant would help the recipient to get off or stay off the streets. This may be very straightforward: eg having ID documents will enable them to apply for housing or employment, or having new clothes or internet access will improve their self-esteem and help them to engage better with support services.
- If appropriate, please tell us about any longer-term plans or aspirations you and your client have discussed, and if the grant will help towards achieving these: for instance skills training, counselling, or something related to a hobby which might help them to spend less time participating in a street-based lifestyle.

Details of the beneficiary's ethnicity, age and gender are optional.

Section 4

Sourcing items and supporting documents/consent

- We ask you to explain what alternative sources you have tried and, if relevant, why the beneficiary needs new items rather than second-hand.
- You must always supply quotes for large items, including for carpets/flooring.
- All applications must be supported by a **statement from the beneficiary**, to show that they are aware of the application being made on their behalf.

Don't just stick to applications for phones and clothes!

We encourage support workers to have a conversation with potential beneficiaries about their long-term goals. Think about what will make a practical difference to them if they want to stay off the streets in future, and explain why in your application.

Second hand sources, furniture packages and guideline amounts for frequently requested items

We encourage pre-loved/second-hand purchases where possible for sustainability reasons, especially for clothing. If you cannot source second hand items, please explain why in your application. Support workers are expected to accompany beneficiaries shopping. You should not use the grant to buy gift cards for applicants to use unaccompanied.

Clothing

Clothes grants can be up to **£150**, shoes up to **£40**. Clothing should be sourced second hand for sustainability and to provide maximum value. You can use online sources such as Vinted as well as local shops. If buying second-hand is not possible please explain. You must aim to get good value for money eg it is not acceptable to spend the entire grant allocation for clothing on one pair of branded trainers.

Mobile phones

A mobile phone should be no more than **£40**.

If the applicant is in stable accommodation you can apply for the following:

White goods

White goods such as fridge-freezers, washing machines and cookers. Please investigate second-hand sources and the local packages initially and provide price comparison quotes/webpage links for any items that cannot be sourced second-hand. It is recognised that white goods may be harder to obtain or less reliable second-hand. Variable prices but generally not over £200 per item.

Household items / furniture

Variable prices – please explain in the application form. Mattresses and carpets can only be bought new. Please provide a written quote from the carpet firm (this can be an email or pro forma). See links below for local provision of referral packages.

Higher value technology such as TVs, tablets and laptops

A tablet or TV should be approx **£100**. Laptop prices are variable but investigate shops such as CeX for good quality reputable second-hand items. Please provide price comparison quotes/webpage links for any items that cannot be sourced second-hand. You must explain what the applicant will use the item for (eg leisure/hobbies or training course/work). Please note that applications for all three types of device are unlikely to be supported.

Bikes

A standard second-hand bicycle to travel to and from work and appointments should be no more than **£100-£150**. Allow a further **£50-£75** for helmet, lock and lights. You must explain why the applicant needs the bike to travel.

Furniture/electrical item packages

[Cambridge Re-Use](#) sells via referrals. Items can be purchased individually or as part of a package which includes essential items. The package price doesn't have to be spent in one visit. CBI 8DH 01223 576535

[Emmaus](#) CB25 9FD 01223 863657

[British Heart Foundation Furniture and Electrical Store](#) CBI 1DB 01223 633790

[British Red Cross Furniture and Electrical Shop](#) CBI 1DJ 01223 301426

Besom also operates via referrals thebesomincambridge@gmail.com