

Revised guidelines October 2023

Cambridge Street Aid was set up to enable members of the public to help people who are street homeless to leave, and stay off, the streets. The Cambridge public and local businesses have been very generous, and since its foundation Street Aid has raised over £170k in donations, all of which is made available as grants.

Street Aid undertakes regular reviews of the kinds of items being requested and the quality of grant applications, recognising that some items requested might not immediately help a person leave or stay off the street but may form part of broader plan of support and encouragement.

From 1st October 2023 the following guidance applies:

1. The date the applicant was **rough sleeper verified** in Cambridge City will be a requirement on the form.
2. For applicants who are street homeless, or in emergency or temporary accommodation, the maximum award available will be £250.
3. Once an offer of stable accommodation (HI/ RSL/ CCC or PRS) has been accepted, applications for up to £750 will be considered.
4. The maximum grant amount for applicants in stable accommodation remains as £750 but, in exceptional circumstances, applications for larger amounts will be considered where there is strong justification and evidence to support the request. For example, counselling, training, health care, education, vocational courses, or work placements.
5. Two grants per applicant remains the expected maximum but see below for exceptional circumstances.
6. Bikes and e-bikes will not be funded without evidence that they are required to access a specific work placement or for work / education. We will support applications to cover the cost of public transport where required. Private electric scooters remain illegal for use on the road or in public spaces and will not be funded.
7. Mobile phones can be requested to a maximum value of £40. Phone credit should be listed an extra item when requesting funding.
8. TV,s laptops and other high value items will not be funded whilst the applicant is in emergency or temporary accommodation. Items like this will be considered on proof of a settled accommodation offer such as Housing First, Council/ RSL tenancy or PRS accommodation, where this is evidence to support a need for the item.
9. Clothes requests will be capped at £150 and shoes at £40. We encourage second hand where possible for sustainability reasons (we have a wealth of second-hand shops in the city).

10. Provisional driving licences will not generally be funded. However, they will be considered if someone has an offer of work where it can be shown that a driving licence would be beneficial for their longer-term progression in their employment.
11. For grants requesting start-up funding or tools to enable the applicant to become self-employed, proof of eligibility to work in the UK will be required. Applicants should be made aware that they need public liability insurance when providing services to the public, and there should be some **detail in the application** to evidence what they intend to do and how.

We will always consider cases where there are **exceptional circumstances**. This includes applications for a second large (£750) grant, where there is an agreed pathway or opportunity which could deliver a long-term impact for the applicant. In such cases referrers will be required to include a detailed statement explaining why an exception should be made for their client.