



Help from charitable organisations

Fact sheet no. 68 EW Help from charitable organisations

April 2019

Use this fact sheet to:

- see what kinds of help you might get from a charitable organisation;
- get tips on applying for their help; and
- understand how to find them.

Who can get help

Many of us, at one time or another, will need a bit of extra help to deal with what life brings. Fortunately, there are many charitable organisations which understand this and which want to help. You might need a little extra help to deal with:

- the expense of a new child or an unexpected debt;
- an illness or a disability which stops you working; or
- setting up a new home with few resources.

Whatever your need is, a charity might be able to help you to deal with your situation more easily.

Help that charities can offer

Charities offer a range of different kinds of help, depending on their purpose and resources. They might offer:

- **money** - for example, to pay for an essential item or to clear an energy debt;
- **a product** - for example, a voucher for goods, items needed by people with particular conditions; or
- **a service** - for example, a holiday for a disabled person or a carer.



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Where to find charitable help

Turn2us



Turn2us is a national poverty charity helping people when times get tough by providing practical financial support.

 **BENEFITS CALCULATOR**  **GRANTS SEARCH**  **INFORMATION & SUPPORT**

Find out what help you can get by clicking here to visit the Turn2us website...

Use the online Grants Search on the Turn2us website www.turn2us.org.uk to help you find charitable help based on your situation.

Have a look at the information on the [Grants - what you need to know](#) page first, so that your application has the best chance of success.

If you don't have access to the internet or you struggle going online, you can call the Turn2us helpline on: 0808 802 2000 from 9.00 am to 5.30 pm, Mondays to Fridays (except bank holidays). All calls are free from a UK landline and from most mobiles.

Tips on applying for a grant

- Each charitable fund will have its own application process that usually **includes filling in forms and communicating with people. This could include going online, speaking to someone on the phone and writing letters.**
- Make sure you meet the application rules before you apply.
- Most funds will ask for evidence, including recent financial statements and something to show that you qualify for the charity's help.
- Read any guidance notes before applying.
- Most charities can't provide instant emergency help. Read the Turn2us Emergency Information guide if you need this help - <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Emergency-Information/What-is-Emergency-Information>.

Some charities will only accept applications through an intermediary or support worker who applies on your behalf. Intermediaries that might help include:

- health and social care professionals, such as nurses, doctors, therapists and social workers;
- advisers from [Citizens Advice](#) and other [advice organisations](#);
- staff and volunteers from charities working with people in financial need;



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- someone who speaks on your behalf, for example, an advocate for people with mental health issues or learning disabilities; and
- teachers.

Local organisations

Local agencies, such as Citizens Advice, usually know what kinds of help are available locally and how to apply for it. Find your nearest office on their website www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Your local council will be able to tell you if they have a welfare assistance scheme that might help you. Go to GOV.UK's website www.gov.uk and search for 'Find your local council'. Advicelocal's website www.advicelocal.uk has a postcode lookup tool to help you find local agencies in your area.

Auriga Services

Auriga Services publishes a free booklet called **Help with Water and Energy** which you can download from their website www.aurigaservices.co.uk. This gives information about trust funds which may help to clear energy debts. The booklet also gives information about other forms of support and assistance from both energy and water suppliers that might help you.

Benevolent funds

Many occupations and some organisations have dedicated benevolent funds. These might help you with a grant or other kind of assistance if you, or a member of your family, has:

- worked in a particular occupation or industry;
- been a member of a union or an association; or
- worked for a large firm or an organisation, such as the Civil Service.

Use this kind of detail in your grant searches. If you know of an organisation that could help you, they will usually have a website giving their contact details.

Foodbanks

The Trussell Trust has set up foodbanks where you might get emergency food, if you can't afford to buy what you need. See if there is a foodbank in your area on their website www.trusselltrust.org. Use the **Find a foodbank near you** search box. Other foodbanks have been set up, linked to the Independent Food Aid Network. You can get contact details for these foodbanks on their website www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk. Click on the link to the **Map of Independent Food Aid Network Members**. People at foodbanks may be able to suggest other kinds of help too.

Internet

The Money Saving Expert website www.moneysavingexpert.com is a good source of information about different types of grants that are available and other ways to save money. Search using the words 'Grant grabbing' to get more information.



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GOV.UK's website www.gov.uk has plenty of links to the different kinds of grants which are available nationally and locally. Just type the word 'grants' into the search box.

In Wales, the Discretionary Assistance Fund may help if you are in financial difficulty because of an emergency or disaster. It can give grants or provide items, such as white goods (for example, fridges and washing machines) to help with essential needs. It can also help vulnerable people to live independently. Go to www.beta.gov.wales and search for 'Discretionary Assistance Fund for Wales'.

Ways to clear your debt

There are different ways to deal with your debts.

Whatever your situation, there is usually an option that is suitable for you.

**See our fact sheet:
Ways to clear your debt**



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National Debtline endeavour to keep our fact sheets as up-to-date as possible, however, we cannot be held responsible for changes in legislation or for developments in case law since this edition of the fact sheet was issued.

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