

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

My Shining Star

CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY

Registered charity: 1170482

My Shining Star Grants

The purpose of My Shining Star grants is to help people meet the financial needs that can arise from childhood cancer or its treatment.

Our grants can help meet a wide range of practical needs arising from cancer, for example:

- pay an outstanding bill or debt
- purchase essential items such as food
- purchase new clothes needed because of changes to body shape or size
- pay bills incurred as a result of prolonged hospital stays or long journeys

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.

All grants are awarded at the discretion of the charity trustees.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for a grant a patient must:

- have a cancer diagnosis, or still be affected by cancer, or its treatment;
- or be treated as an oncology patient;
- be a UK resident;
- have less than £6,000 in savings (if a single person) or £8,000 savings (if a couple or family); and
- either have a low income or severely impacted income

The Applicant

We aim to help as many qualifying people as possible meet their particular needs.

Each applicant plays an important role as a "Gatekeeper" for the grants.

To ensure that the funds are used to help people living with cancer who are most in need of financial support, we request that the application be completed by one of the following:

- Direct family member (Parent/Guardian), or
- Healthcare Professional acting in the child's best interests.

**SUPPORTING FAMILIES THROUGH THE
FINANCIAL TRAUMA OF CHILDHOOD CANCER**



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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, and
- 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 e.g. –“10 visits by car to St Thomas Hospital (a 30 mile round trip) over a one month period”

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.
- if there has been an impact on a family's financial situation (e.g.: working age with mortgage and child care responsibilities.) If needs have significantly increased and if comfort or quality of life is becoming an issue.

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

If you would like to submit a grant application and have not submitted an application before, please contact us by email enquiries@myshiningstar.co.uk or visit our website myshiningstar.co.uk