

BlindAid

Grant Application Guidance Notes

The spirit in which a grant is awarded:

We are providing essential goods; items or funds that support blind and partially sighted people maintain their independence. In order to maximise the distribution of our grant funds we will offer items/goods that are suitable and also represent good value for money.

In order to nominate a blind or visually impaired person for a grant you should be an employee or an officer of a registered charity or a statutory agency. You should be comfortable that you have a good understanding of the circumstances of the grant recipient.

No one submitting an application should promise or imply the approval of particular grant applications prior to the proper consideration of the Grant Panel.

Qualifying Criteria: A grant recipient should be:

- A UK citizen or been granted permission to stay in the UK by the Home Office
- A permanent resident in one of the 12 inner London boroughs or the City of London
- An individual with a permanent visual impairment
- In receipt of statutory means tested benefit(s)
- Aware of and consenting to your application on their behalf

General Guidelines

- BlindAid receives more applications than it can fund and regrettably we cannot always assist
- We do not make payments direct to recipients
- Grants are awarded for essential, rather than luxury items
- Charity law states that statutory provision should not be subsidised by charitable funds
- The Charity does not award grants retrospectively
- A check should be made to ensure the recipient is receiving all statutory benefits to which they are entitled prior to application.
- Maximum grant award will be up to and not normally exceed £500 per application
- No more than one application per person/household can be considered every 2 years
- An application to the Social Fund should be made in the first instance (if eligible)
- For high value grants, applications made need to be made to several organisations/trusts/charities. In these circumstances we will 'pledge' our contribution until such time as the full amount has been raised. Evidence of other funding availability will be required before the award is finally made.
- Grant funds must only be used for the purpose the award was made
- Grants will not normally be awarded where household savings exceed £4,000
- **Grants for holidays:** We will require a copy of holiday cancellation insurance which must be arranged by the recipient prior to travel
- **Grants for household items:** BlindAid will purchase items directly from our preferred suppliers

- **Grants for IT Equipment/CCTV Readers/Specialist Software:** These grants are typically higher value, and may need to be supported by applications to several organisations.

Purchase of Goods/Items:

Grants awarded for the purchase of goods/items are made as a 'one off' gift.

When the grant recipient accepts an item they are then responsible for the safe use, maintenance, servicing and insurance of said item.

This also applies to any monies BlindAid may pledge as a contribution toward a high value grant application.

White Goods:

If an application is made for white goods then the person submitting the application must also supply accurate measurements for fitting to be arranged.

Specific makes/models may not be requested. BlindAid will arrange delivery, installation and where necessary removal of old appliances direct with suppliers.

The grant recipient will have the option to set up a preferred 'password' for the engineer/delivery person to quote for security purposes.

Computer Equipment:

We will supply PC/laptop computers that are sourced directly via our suppliers and are selected for accessibility and value for money. Specific makes/models may not be requested.

Completing the Application Form:

Please complete all parts of the application form as accurately and clearly as possible. If you wish to send a supporting letter explaining the background to the request and how the recipient will benefit from the goods or services requested, this may assist us in making decisions in more complex cases. A supporting letter is not mandatory; however, an application may be rejected if there is insufficient information.

Processing the Application:

Applications made online will receive an email confirmation of receipt.

We will endeavour to process applications within 28 days.

We may contact you, the intended recipient, and anyone you name on the form who is coordinating joint applications in order to qualify your application should we have any queries.

BlindAid may wish to carry out a home visit as part of the assessment process.

The decision of the Grant Panel is final.

Grant Exclusions:

BlindAid does not award grants for the following purposes

- Payment of outstanding debts
- Non essential furniture or home goods
- Payment of council tax or mortgage/rent arrears
- Legal fees for insolvency/bankruptcy
- Payment of utility or other household bills including internet connection
- Deposit payments for rented or leased accommodation
- Garden fencing or clearing
- Modification/adaptation of homes either local authority or privately owned
- Education or occupational training
- Medical treatment/alternative therapies
- Funeral expenses
- Removal expenses
- Motor vehicle purchases or maintenance and expenses
- Fines or arrears

Follow Up & Monitoring:

BlindAid has a duty to ensure that grant funds are spent to further the aims and objectives of the Charity. BlindAid is committed to continuously developing and improving the grant programme. Therefore we will seek feedback from individuals and agencies about both the process, as well as, trying to determine the difference to the quality of life for the people who receive grants.