

HELPFUL NOTES

Please read in full before completing our personal profile form, as incorrectly completed forms will prevent us from being able to offer a thorough search.

Firstly Please do not spend or borrow the money in the hope of being reimbursed as charities will not give grants toward something that has been paid for already. Also, please keep in mind that charities can take weeks, and sometimes months, before they come to a decision as to whether they will make you a grant.

Your need & how much will it cost?

Some clients will require practical items such as household goods; others may need a disability aid, or financial help toward day to day living. What we do need to know is *your* need, and how much it is going to cost.

For example you may need a new cooker or bed, the charities will ask you to produce a quote for the item, and the quote should include any additional charges such as additional VAT, delivery or fitting.

Previous employment

It is very important to give as much detail as you can. There are many charities linked to previous occupations. Individuals often think that the work they may have done was not important enough to have had a charity set up for it, and they are often surprised!

An Example:

'Mrs Smith' contacted us because she couldn't afford to replace her bed. With the information she provided we found that there were at least three good charities we could put her in touch with. Mrs Smith herself had worked part time for 6 years at her local supermarket; her late husband was a member of the armed services, and for much of his working life he was a railway employee. The three charities were;

SSAFA-the umbrella group for all armed service charities

Railway Benefit Fund-for active or retired railway employees and their dependants.

Retail Trust-a charity which helps those who worked in retail, wholesale, manufacturing and distribution trades for at least 5 years

There are too many charities to list them all here, but the most important thing we need to know is the business of your past employer, your position there, and how long you worked for them. We do not go back to previous employers, they may even have ceased trading, but we do need to establish a link to an occupational charity that may help you.

Income & Expenditure

The reason we need these details is that some charities will only help those on a low income, with little or no savings. There are other charities that allow applications from those who are a little better off and have higher savings. Each charity has its own criteria. This information will also prevent us giving you inappropriate charities to contact. Another positive side to this is that when the charities know your financial details they may be able to advise you that you may not be claiming all the benefits or allowances due to you.

Third Party Professional You can nominate someone to make applications for you. This could be someone like a health worker, occupational therapist, social worker, key worker, tenancy support officer, or even someone from an agency such as CAB or Age UK, just so long as they agree to do this. The person should know you and your situation, and you must get their permission and contact details, as we forward the list of charities directly to that person.