



Cost of Living Support Fund

What is it?

The Support Fund has been established by Together for Short Lives to provide a one-off payment to a limited number of families with a child with a life-limiting/life-threatening condition dependent on medical technology to sustain life (see below for full criteria).

What is the purpose of the Support Fund?

During this unprecedented time with increased energy costs Together for Short Lives are very aware that there are many families with children dependent on electrical equipment to maintain the child's health status, prevent further disability or sustain their life. For these families, extra energy costs cannot be avoided.

This fund aims to provide extra money to alleviate financial worries. It's a quick and simple process, giving families choice in how they want to spend it. There are no strings attached. Whether it's helping with food costs, heating or other general living costs, or paying for additional support at this time. Families can spend it on anything that helps.

How much money is provided to families?

It's a one-off **cash grant** of £250 made to families who are nominated by a health care professional who currently works with/is known to the family.

How will it be rolled out?

The Fund will be rolled out from 22nd November across the UK. Teams from within the 15 regional palliative care network areas have come forward and nominated one person to act as the referral agent for that team/area. We encourage areas not yet involved to email info@togetherforshortlives.org.uk. All applications are forwarded to us by that agent and processed on receipt. Payments to families are made fortnightly, via BACS.

How much funding is available

Morrisons kick started the fund with an allocation of £100k to support 400 grants. We have launched an emergency appeal to raise further funds to offer further grants during the course of this winter period. Each referral agent will be asked to submit applications up to an agreed limit. Please note: the fund will close when the grant pot has been spent, irrespective of whether an area/team have reached their agreed quota. You are therefore advised to submit applications as early as possible.

Who is it for?

Families facing financial hardship who are caring for a child under 19 years old who is technology dependent with a life-limiting condition are eligible for a grant. For example, children who rely on electricity for:

- Respiratory (breathing) – ventilation, oxygen, nebulisers, suction, pulse oximeters, humidifiers, cardiac support
- Eating and drinking – feeding pumps, parenteral nutrition
- Medication - syringe drivers
- Personal care – dialysis, equipment to aid temperature control
- Sleep – pressure mattresses and beds, apnoea alarms,
- Mobility – electric wheelchairs, hoists, floor lifts,
- Communication – augmentative and alternative communication devices

To be eligible for a grant the main carer must be in receipt of one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit

- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit

Note: Only one claim can be made per household.

How easy is it to apply?

Applying is quick and simple. Applications to the fund can be made from 22nd Nov – 28th Feb 2023 or until the fund is closed.

Being in receipt of other grants will not affect applications.

Once a referral agent has been identified and has returned the authorisation form, an application form will be sent out for their team to use against their agreed quota. Completed application forms will then be emailed to Together for Short Lives from the authorised agent's account, or as agreed.

Please note, should a team member complete the form on behalf of the nominated referral agent, the application **MUST** be sent from the agent's email account.

Funds will be paid to the bank account nominated on the application form. Families will be notified of this payment by email.

How will you keep the data you collect?

Personal information will be kept in line with our privacy policy which can be found [here](#) Bank details will only be kept for payment purposes and to satisfy auditor requirements.

Information from applications (hometown, child's age and intended use of grant) will be kept anonymously but used to inform evaluation of the Fund.

What information do families need to share with Together for Short Lives?

All fields on the application form will need to be completed, including an email address.

The family will be sent an email to notify them when payment has been made. It will also inform them of our Family support core offer and offer them an opportunity to engage in our Cost of Living campaign.

Families do not need to keep receipts to show how/when the money was spent.

How is the money paid?

£250 will be made by BACS payment to the account detailed on the application form. The named person must have parental responsibility for the child.

BACS payments are made on the 15th and 31st of each month so families should receive funds within three weeks of the application being approved.

Can I tell people about the Support Fund?

We are keen to get funds out to families meeting the criteria during these winter months. Although this is a closed fund, only available via authorised staff, we would welcome your help in being introduced to areas not yet involved. Do ask them to email info@togetherforshortlives.org.uk. Do remember, only applications submitted by authorised referral agents will be accepted.

Next steps

Your nominated referral agent needs to complete an authorisation form to confirm they understand the Fund's terms and conditions.

This form should then be returned to info@togetherforshortlives.org.uk. They will then have access to the application form and work with colleagues to identify and complete applications with beneficiaries.

Frequently asked questions

Q. If the parents don't live together, can the payment be split 50/50?

A. No. The payment will be paid to the parent who has main custody of the child and has responsibility for paying the energy bills.

Q. How long will it take for the family to get paid?

A. Payments will be made in two batches, at the beginning and middle of each month. Every effort will be made to pay processed claims in the next available batch.

Q. Why am I being asked to send a copy of the parent's bank card?

A. For all payments, we need to check that bank account numbers match the account name. This is done by our own bank's software for most accounts. However, some of the UK banks e.g., Monzo do not participate in this scheme, so we must see the bank card instead for verification.

Q. The family I want to refer has received a Butterfly Fund or Covid grant from you before. Are they eligible for the Cost of Living Support?

A. Yes, if they meet the Eligibility Criteria

Q. How will I know if the main carer is on a means tested benefit?

A. You will need to ask the family directly as part of the application process. By supporting an application, professionals are asked to confirm that they have been informed directly by the family that they receive a means tested benefit.