

Help The Helpers (“the Foundation”)

SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

The aim of this document is to outline the criteria that will be applied to any application for financial assistance made to the Foundation, and to establish the fundamental principles that must be applied and met, in order for an application to succeed.

Sponsorship may be made provisionally prior to assessment by a trained physician, however for full funding to be provided applicants must meet all criteria as outlined in this guidance

Scope

The Foundation’s objective is to reduce the financial barriers of access to medical cannabis. We were founded to enable patients who are unable to afford the cost of a medical cannabis prescription to benefit from plant medicine.

It is the responsibility of the founders to monitor the number of applications supported, in relation to the funds available for the purpose, and to review the Charity’s grant making policy as necessary.

Applications for Assistance

Applications for assistance will be assessed against our principles:

1. The principle of Need

An applicant must demonstrate that their need is based on hardship or distress caused by sickness, infirmity, disability, or any medical condition that has demonstrated evidence of effective treatment or management of symptoms with medical cannabis. Documented evidence must be supplied, sufficient for the charity to be satisfied that this principle is met. The Foundation will consider to what extent an expressed need is essential to their health and wellbeing, safety and security, and the ability of the applicant to maintain normal daily living. There must also be quality medical evidence to support the safe prescribing of medical cannabis for the condition and/or symptom being treated.

The Foundation is not obliged to give financial assistance to meet every identified need. All decisions reached on any application rest entirely with the Foundation.

The Foundation will assess such applications against its principles, and will require its own standards of evidence to support them.

2. The principle of Circumstance

To properly assess an application, the Foundation will consider the full circumstances of the applicant and their household and the background to the problem presented. The household of the applicant is defined as one where a couple or family group live together and/or are financially interdependent.

The applicant will be required to provide evidence of all income, savings and capital, and all outstanding liabilities for all related members of the household. Specific documentary proof may be requested, depending on the nature of the case, but as a minimum the applicant must supply:

- A full copy of the most recent 3 months statements for all bank savings accounts held by the applicant and family members of their household. Such statements must cover at least three full calendar months of account activities.
- A copy of the latest salary advice for all employed members of the household, and evidence of any other income, benefits or allowances paid into the household.
- Copies of any existing medical cannabis prescription for which financial assistance is being requested.

2. The principle of Timing

The Foundation will in most cases not provide funding for longer than one year in duration. At the end of the year recipients of financial assistance will be asked to reapply if they wish to continue to receive assistance. Their applications will be reassessed according to the criteria outlined in these grant making principles. Recipients will be given three month's notice prior to the cessation of financial assistance.

3. The principle of Eligibility

In order to obtain assistance, all successful applicants must subsequently undertake a clinical assessment in accordance with TGA guidance on prescribing medical cannabis. In order to ensure that any medical assessment is conducted to the highest clinical standard this will be conducted by physicians that we partner with, in accordance with their clinical governance structure. Any medical appointment that is attended by a recipient of a sponsorship may also be funded by the foundation for the duration of the grant period.

Grant Application and Assessment Process

- All applications must be made online, or in writing, by completing the Foundation's application form.
- An application will be vetted to ensure that basic criteria are met, and that all necessary documentation is present, including scrutiny of the declared household income and expenditure. Where information is clearly missing, the application will be returned whilst further evidence is sought. This may delay the processing of your application.
- Applicants will be provided with confirmation of receipt of their application, and an initial request for any further information required, within 5 working days of initial receipt of their application.
- Except within exceptional circumstances, the outcome of an application will be notified to the applicant within 30 working days of the application unless further information to support the application is outstanding
- The Foundation will not be obliged to provide an explanation to applicants if their application proves to be unsuccessful.