How to apply for a Nottingham Street Aid grant

Introduction to this guide

This guide explains how to apply for a grant from Nottingham Street Aid. We want this guide to support people to submit strong applications and to understand what happens once they have applied. This includes the criteria that must be met for grants to be awarded.

What Street Aid does

Street Aid provides financial help to people who are sleeping rough, who are at high risk of street homelessness or who are housed in extremely vulnerable conditions.

The things that people need to move away from street homelessness vary from person to person, so Street Aid enables someone to think about what will practically help them, and to apply for a grant to pay for it. A person cannot self-refer to the fund, but they can approach a support worker or organization to assist them in doing so.

The fund is there to be used by the agency working with the person to help deliver their plan to get them off the street or prevent them from becoming street homeless.

Street Aid also gives people who want to help an alternative to handing money directly to people on the streets.

Street Aid grant criteria

There are three criteria that people _must meet in order to be eligible_ for a Street Aid grant:

1. The person **must be sleeping rough, at high risk of street homelessness or housed in extremely vulnerable conditions.** If someone is not currently street homeless, then the referral form must explain why they are at immediate risk of becoming street homeless or the immediate risks they face in their current situation. This might, for example, include a person who is accepting a coercive or exploitative situation in order to avoid becoming street homeless.

2. The grant must be for things that would **help the person get off, or stay off, the streets.** We encourage people to be creative as to what that 'something' could be – we don't restrict what people apply for, as long as it will practically help the person to get off, or stay off, the streets. The grant cannot be used for things that will help the person live on the streets, such as a sleeping bag.

3. The person must currently **live in the Nottingham area**

Only people who are currently living within an NG1-NG17 postcodes can be eligible to receive a Nottingham Street Aid grant. All areas of NG1-7 are eligible, however, some areas of NG9-17 are outside of the Nottingham urban area and so are not eligible. Please contact us to ask if you are unsure.

The Street Aid fund will not normally be used for crisis support. It is there to offer planned, strategic help that will bring about change for the person. Referring organisations are encouraged to consider the medium to long-term needs of their clients as identified in their support plans, and to make applications based on these needs.

Application process

How do I apply?

The Street Aid grant application form can be found at this link:

https://nottinghamstreetaid.net

Applications must be from a charitable organisation that has assessed the applicant's circumstances and can confirm that they are in need of the funding, and that this cannot be readily found elsewhere.

If you are an applicant or a support worker and you have questions about an application at any point in the process, please don't hesitate to contact us (nottingham@streetsupport.net) so we can discuss this with you.

• There must be a supporting statement from the grant beneficiary attached to the grant application which can be in any one of the following formats:

Handwritten and signed by the grant beneficiary.

Typed including the signature of the grant beneficiary.

An email from the grant beneficiary's email address.

An audio recording of the grant beneficiary stating their support.

This ensures the individual is aware of the application being made on their behalf.

• We are also requesting contact details for the grant beneficiary. This is so we can ask them how the grant they received has helped them.

• The grant must be spent within 6 months of receiving the grant money.

• Quotes are needed for carpets when submitting an application.

Please remember that once a grant has been fulfilled, the receipts of all goods bought should be emailed to enquiries.nottingham@streetsupport.net.

There is a step-by-step guide to filling out the form below.

How much can I apply for?

Grants of up to £750 will be paid to the referring organisation to spend the money as agreed. Receipts will be requested to prove how the money has been used.

The fund has a limit of one grant per person in any six-month period and up to £2000 total per person in their lifetime (unless there are exceptional circumstances that are explained in the application). Please note that unsuccessful applications will not be counted towards this total.

Who makes the decision?

Applications go to the Nottingham Street Aid independent panel.

Only applications that meet the Street Aid criteria set out above will be considered. The amount of money applied for might need to be discussed with the referring agency if a cheaper alternative can provide the same help or if an alteration to the application is being suggested. Grants will be prioritized based on the criteria set out above and as many as possible will be awarded depending on available funds.

How long will it take?

We aim to respond to an application within four weeks of receiving it. Assuming the criteria are met and once the amount of the grant has been agreed.

This means that most successful applicants will receive their Street Aid grant within four to eight weeks of applying.

Street Aid grants are not normally used to provide crisis support. However, if an application is flagged to us as urgent, we will aim to award the grant as rapidly as possible.

Application form – step by step

This part of the guide is for referring agents, usually support workers, who work for the referring organisation and are applying for a Street Aid grant on behalf of their client. Look out for our top tips in each section!

Registration
The first thing you need to do is register as a referring agency. Form available here: https://nottinghamstreetaid.net
Top tip: Get all the information you will need in place before starting the application form.
This includes details of the person's history, what a grant will be used for and how much money will be needed (including quotes for larger items).

Section 1: Referring Organisation
Here we ask you to provide brief details of the referring organisation so that we can link the application to that registered organization. We will ask for name, contact person, email, telephone number, address and website. We also require details of a finance contact.

Section 2: Grant Application
Here we ask for details of the proposed grant beneficiary, including their name and their circumstances. *Many questions provide a list with tick boxes in order to minimize what you need to write in the free text sections towards the end. This will make it easier for us to check that the application meets the criteria, to compare applications and to collect data for future reporting purposes.*

We will ask you to state what the grant will be used for.
Top tip: Give as many details as you can to show how the person meets the Street Aid criteria. In particular, you must state whether the person is or has been on the streets (and, if so, when). Also details of any particular vulnerability they might have generally or because of the living situation. We also ask for the proposed beneficiary's ethnicity, age and gender etc. This is optional if the applicant would rather not say. Please explain how the award will help the recipient get off or stay off the street. If the award is part of some larger plan to assist the individual, please explain the part the award will play.

Here we ask for the amount of money that is requested.
We ask you to state any alternative sources of help you may have tried before applying for a Street Aid grant. If you are applying for a grant to buy a new item, we also ask you to explain why a second-hand item will not meet the person's need. This is so we can be sure the Street Aid fund is being used to maximum benefit.
Top tip: Provide two or three quotes for any larger physical items that will be bought using the

grant. This might involve some additional research, for example measuring up flooring for carpets or seeing what items are available from organisations such as The Arches project.

Referring worker: We also ask you to complete the 'Declaration' to confirm that you have no private or family relationship with the person you are recommending for a Street Aid grant.

Beneficiary: We ask that you give your consent for NSA to share the information you have provided with other agencies (Nottingham City Council, Changing Futures project). This is to verify that other agencies have not provided funding for the same items and also so we might be able to identify alternative sources of funding. We will not share information if a client can provide good reason for this.

What makes a good application?

To have the best chance of receiving a Street Aid grant, and to make the best use of it, we recommend you follow the 3 'Be's:

1. Be clear about the criteria.

If you show clearly how the person meets each of the three criteria, they are much more likely to receive a Street Aid grant.

If you fail to show this, it will delay your application as we will have to come back to you for more information. If the person doesn't meet any one of the criteria, they will not be eligible for a Street Aid grant.

2. Be thorough in the information you give.

The more information you provide in the application form, the more likely it is a grant will be awarded speedily.

This includes:

• A detailed description of the circumstances the person is in, linked to the application criteria.

• Details on how the grant will be used, including how this ties in with current and longer-term support, and how it will help the person get off, or stay off, the streets.

• Quotes and other research on the items the grant will fund, to show that you are making the best use of the fund and that this help cannot be found elsewhere **(see notes on other sources at end of this guide).**

3. Be creative in what you apply for.

A Street Aid grant can be completely personalised: it can be used to fund whatever an individual needs to help them get off, and/or stay off, the streets.

There are many things that Street Aid grants have been used to fund in other cities, including: paying for training courses, travel or equipment to help someone find work, identity documents or buying white goods or furniture for a new home.

We encourage potential beneficiaries and their support workers to have a good conversation about their long-term goals and to think about what would make a practical difference to them.

Here are some imaginative uses of Street Aid grants:

• Buying materials and a peddler's licence to enable the beneficiary to make and sell jewellery

• Funding towards a laptop to enable the beneficiary to complete a higher education course and then apply for jobs

• Paying for several sessions of counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy or alternative therapies to enable the beneficiary to start addressing mental health

issues that are holding them back
• Funding towards a computer to enable the beneficiary to access and process photographs to sell and exhibit
• Paying for the use of an allotment, including a shed and tools, which would bring the beneficiary many mental and physical health benefits
• Funding to help with health and fitness goals – including gym clothing, trainers, classes or membership
• Buying a bike, plus helmet, lights and reflective clothing to get to work.
Some creative group applications have also been successful, where several people were in need of low-cost items, including replacement identification documents and travel cards. This means only one application from the support worker was needed, rather than separate applications for each individual.

Street Aid packages and guideline amounts
If you are looking for some of the more common items, we recommend you look at the following as a guide. We can deviate from these guideline prices if there is a good reason to do so, but you should explain why this is necessary in your application.

Household items
Many such items can be obtained at no cost from The Arches Project: https://thearchesnottingham.org

The following is a general guideline for how much things might cost:
• **Single person package** £205-£335
o Sofa £30-45
o Coffee table £10-25
o Wardrobe £30-40
o Chest drawers £25-45
o Single bed £50-70
o Bedside cabinet £5-15
o Dining table plus 2 chairs £35-65
o Home decoration: Curtains, paintings, linen, lamp, crockery £20-30
• **Two people package** £305-£515
o Sofa £45-65
o Coffee table £10-25
o Wardrobe x 2 £60-80
o Chest drawers x 2 £50-90
o Double bed £65-120
o Bedside cabinet x 2 £10-30
o Dining table plus 2 chairs £35-65
o Home decoration: Curtains, paintings, linen, lamp, crockery £30-40

White goods
White goods such as fridge-freezers, washing machines and cookers should be sourced second-hand, unless there is a good reason why new items are needed. They should cost between £50 and £200.
Linking in with organisations providing second-hand goods as soon as someone knows they are likely to be housed should allow time to find the items that they need.

Mobile phones, tablets laptops
A mobile phone should be no more than £35.
A tablet should be no more than £70
A refurbished laptop should be sought, which should be no more than £130.

Bikes
A standard, second-hand bicycle to travel to and from work and appointments should be no more than £100.   We recommend trying **Bike Works first as these are a charitable enterprise. https://www.nottinghambikeworks.org.uk**

Street Aid success stories from Cambridge*
Tom had been on the streets, moved into hostels and then progressed to living in his own home. He was very keen to complete training as an MOT tester, but the cost of the training was £1500. Tom was supported to apply for a Street Aid grant to cover half of the course and he was then able to borrow the other half from a friend. Tom attended the training and broke the MOT training academy's record with a pass of 95%. One week after completing the training Tom was working full-time as an MOT tester.
Helen had been evicted from two properties in the past and found herself living on the streets. Helen was supported to apply for a Street Aid grant to pay off the final part of past rent arrears. After paying off the arrears Helen and her partner moved into a council flat and they are both doing well.
Frank had long-term alcohol abuse issues and mental health issues, and he had lived on and off the streets after losing his tenancy. Frank made big changes to his lifestyle, including stopping drinking. As a result he was given another council tenancy, but due to feeling lonely in the first few months in his flat Frank started drinking again. Frank was supported to apply for a Street Aid grant to buy carpets and curtains for his new flat. Frank worked hard to get sober again and is managing his property very well. Frank said his new carpets made his flat feel more like his forever home and he has made great plans for his future.
Stephen became homeless after a relationship breakdown. Stephen secured a place to live and then found work as a cleaner, but his hours were unpredictable and after rent he did not have enough money to fund his travel. Stephen was supported to apply for a Street Aid grant for a bike to get to work. After getting his grant, Stephen was offered a new role and the bike greatly helped him get there early in the morning. He has rebuilt a relationship with his children and continues to see them regularly.
*All names have been changed to protect people's identities.**

Further information
You can find out more about Nottingham Street Aid on the Street Support Nottingham website: https://streetsupport.net/nottingham/street-aid/
If you have any questions about applying for a Nottingham Street Aid grant or suggestions for how we can improve this guide, please contact Street Aid by email on nottingham@streetsupport.net.