

## 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 e.g., specifically those who require children who require long-term mechanical ventilation, total parenteral nutrition or dialysis.

### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> November across the UK. Each regional palliative care network will be approached to each identify one-two members of staff to be authorised as Support Fund agents to sign all applications. Payments will be made fortnightly, via BACS.

### How much funding is available

Morrisons have kick started the fund with an allocation of £100k to support 400 grants. We will also be launching 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 an agreed number of applications. We ask that you identify those families with the greatest need amongst your case load who meet the eligibility criteria below.

### Who is it for?

Families who are facing financial hardship whose child has (aged 0-19yrs) has a life-limiting/life-threatening condition (as defined in Together for Short Lives' 4 categories) where the child is technologically dependent on, for example:-

- long-term mechanical ventilation, continuous positive airway pressure, bilevel positive airway pressure or assisted ventilatory support via high flow oxygen therapy (all 8 hrs a day or more),
- total parenteral nutrition,
- home dialysis

AND

Is living in a low income household where the main carer receives one of the following:

1. Universal Credit
2. Child Tax Credit
3. Working Tax Credit
4. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Related Employment Support Allowance
5. Income Support
6. Housing Benefit
7. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 or until the fund is closed.

Being in receipt of other grants will not affect applications.

Authorised referral agents are asked to complete a simple application form, seeking consent and information from identified families (by phone or in person). The completed form will then be emailed to Together for Short Lives.

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 that we will be emailing again 2 weeks following the payment to capture some feedback on how the Fund has helped them.

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 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of each month so families should receive funds within three weeks of the application being approved.

### **Can I tell people about the Support Fund?**

No. This is a closed fund, only available via authorised staff. Authorised staff will selectively talk to families that meet the Fund criteria and applications can only be made via these agents.

### **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](mailto: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 seen proof of benefits e.g. Benefit Statement showing Universal Credit entitlement.