



## COVID-19 Young Futures Fund FAQs

### What is the COVID-19 Young Futures Fund?

At Meningitis Now, we know that many children and young people, who have had an experience of meningitis, will have a range of physical, emotional and psychological issues that are affecting their lives. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, we have seen evidence of how these issues may have become even greater, as lockdown and the requirements of social distancing limit people's normal access to education, medical and social care services, and family support.

This Fund has been created to support the ongoing needs of children and young people (0-25 years of age), whose lives have been affected by meningitis and now the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund provides financial support of up to £500 per applicant to support individual needs relating to education, learning and development. The fund is time limited and only available until the end of October 2020.

### Who is it for?

Many of the children and young people that we support whose lives have been touched by meningitis (directly or indirectly) have already dealt with a range of physical, emotional and psychological issues that have impacted on their young lives. It is vital that we continue to support them through the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is likely to affect all areas of their lives right now and in the months to come.

The child or young person may have had meningitis, be related to someone who has had meningitis, or lost a loved one within the family unit as a result of meningitis.

### What about the Rebuilding Futures Fund for people of all ages?

We have recently reviewed the Rebuilding Futures Fund service requirements. Many of the services and therapies that we usually fund are currently unable to continue due to COVID-19 and social distancing rules. The 3rd party supporting evidence that we need in order to assess the suitability of individual or specialist items, equipment and services is difficult to obtain, and key members of staff who help to deliver this service are currently on the furlough scheme.

We are, however, continuing to accept applications for funeral contributions and headstones during this time.

We anticipate that the other categories within the fund will not re-open until October 2020. Please contact our Meningitis Now helpline on 0808 80 10 388 or email [helpline@meningitisnow.org](mailto:helpline@meningitisnow.org) for further information or queries regarding pending applications.

We are delighted to be able to offer financial support to children and young people (aged 0-25 years of age) whose lives have already been impacted by meningitis and now face the challenge of their education, learning and development being affected by COVID-19. Funds that we would otherwise have used to host support events across the UK and kind donations from various trusts and foundations have enabled us to create this new temporary fund to support those children and young people who need it most.

### How do you apply?

The application form is simple and easy to complete and contains all the information you need to fill in the application and what documents you need to include.

You will need to apply online.

Please ensure quotations for items/equipment or services are dated within the last 7 days, when applying.

We accept one application per child or young person, so if you are making an application on behalf of more than one child, please complete an additional form for each child you are applying for.

If you are unsure about any of the information provided or need further help completing the application form please contact our Meningitis Now helpline on 0808 80 10 388 or email [helpline@meningitisnow.org](mailto:helpline@meningitisnow.org).

### **What can people apply for?**

Items/ equipment and services that support the education, learning and development of children and young people. This might include, but is not limited to:

- Tablets, computers and laptops
- Desks/chairs/workstations
- Outdoor play and leisure equipment
- Gym equipment
- Sensory toys and equipment
- Games consoles, games and books, puzzles
- Online courses, training, tuition
- Baking equipment
- Arts & crafts

### **How much can be requested?**

Meningitis Now will consider funding awards up to the value of £500.

### **Is any additional information required?**

All applications are subject to meeting the fund criteria, terms and conditions, and proof of diagnosis or death certificate.

### **Are applicants subjected to means testing?**

We do not means test\*, and everyone who applies is treated fairly and equally. We follow the same process in all cases and criteria are always consistently applied.

### **Is there a limit to the number of applications?**

We will consider one application per child or young person. Applications can be made for different individuals within one family, but the awards cannot be combined to fund the same item/service

### **What happens after you apply?**

Once we receive your application, we will need to check that you have provided us with everything we need. Missing information will delay an application.

All application forms that we receive are looked at in date order and we will try to process your application as quickly as possible.

An award panel will meet and consider applications regularly throughout each month as applications are received and the applicant will be notified of the decision within five working days. Only applications that meet the criteria and have full supporting documentation will be put forward to the panel for recommendation. We do not operate an appeal process and the panel's decision is final.

### **Will all applications that meet the criteria be successful?**

Unfortunately, Meningitis Now has only limited financial resource to support the Fund. Awards will therefore be made on a first come, first served basis until the funding is fully allocated.

### **How are payments made?**

Where an application has been successful, payment will be made to the individual provider/supplier of the item or service and not directly to individuals. We cannot consider part-payments or contributions towards items/equipment or services which exceed the maximum amount of £500.

### **What are the delivery terms?**

We will be reliant upon the stock and availability of items and equipment from reputable suppliers. We do expect some delays in some areas given the impact of the pandemic and will liaise with you regarding delivery of your orders. The price of delivery should be included within the maximum award amount. Delivery will only be made to the home address provided on the application form.

### **What if the application request is declined by the panel?**

When considering applying to the fund, we strongly recommend that you initially discuss your proposed application with a member of the Meningitis Now Helpline team. Due to the short timeframe in which you can apply we do not encourage you to re-apply.

*\*A means test is a financial assessment of an individual's eligibility for an award.*

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01453 768000 Fax 01453 768001  
**Meningitis Helpline 0808 80 10 388**