

## Rebuilding Futures Fund: FAQs

### What is the Rebuilding Futures Fund?

The Rebuilding Futures Fund is a financial support programme that provides financial, practical and emotional support for people of all ages affected by meningitis. It is designed to complement our existing support offer and enable people to start to rebuild their lives and face the future with hope and confidence.

### Who is it for?

The support offered, is available to anyone of any age living in the UK who has had a personal experience of meningitis or is an immediate family member\*. Bereavement support is available for those who have lost a loved one.

### What can people apply for?

The Rebuilding Futures Fund covers four separate areas. Each area provides funding towards different types of support, but they are all designed to help people to start to rebuild their futures with hope and confidence.

- Health and Wellbeing e.g. counselling, creative therapies, health and exercise
- Specialist Equipment e.g. mobility aids, sensory toys, specialist beds
- Opportunities e.g. technology to support learning, books to support a training course
- Bereavement e.g. bereavement counselling, funeral costs, headstones

### How much can be requested?

Meningitis Now will consider funding awards up to the value of £1,000.

### How do people apply to the Rebuilding Futures Fund?

All requests and enquiries about applying for the Rebuilding Futures Fund should be directed to the Meningitis Now Helpline or your local Community Support Officer. Funding will only be considered on receipt of a fully completed application form. Contact the helpline on 0808 80 10 388 or email [helpline@meningitisnow.org](mailto:helpline@meningitisnow.org)

### Is any additional information required?

All applications are subject to meeting the Rebuilding Futures Fund criteria, terms and conditions and each application must include supporting documentation in the form of a GP or hospital discharge letter confirming diagnosis of meningitis and in most cases a supporting letter from a third-party professional involved in the individual's case (not required for bereavement cases).

### Are applicants subjected to means testing?

We don't means test\*\*, and everyone who applies to the Rebuilding Futures Fund 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 person, per year. Applications can be made by different individuals within one family, but the awards cannot be combined to fund the same item/service.

### How are applications considered?

A Rebuilding Futures Fund award panel will meet and consider applications on a monthly basis 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 therefore do not operate an appeal process and the panel's decision is final.

## **How are payments made?**

Where an application has been successful, payment would normally be made to the individual provider of the item or service. If the award is a contribution towards an item, we would be happy to issue a letter confirming our commitment to pay. Where you are seeking additional funding, we will require evidence that the remaining balance for the item is available i.e. copy of bank statement, a commitment to pay letter from other funding source or a receipt for part-payment.

Only in certain circumstances, will we make an award retrospectively e.g. travel costs to hospital, funeral and headstone contributions.

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

When considering applying to the Rebuilding Futures Fund, we strongly recommend that you initially discuss your proposed application with a member of the Meningitis Now Helpline team or your Community Support Officer. We already offer a support package through our experienced team of Helpline Nurses and Community Support Officers. If in the event an application is declined, our dedicated support staff will help identify other possible forms of support where appropriate and help sign-post individuals to other potential organisations.

## **Can I reapply if my application is declined?**

In exceptional cases we will reconsider an application if new supporting evidence is available or if the support needs of the individual have changed. In these circumstances a review of support needs will be carried out by a member of the Meningitis Now Helpline team or a Community Support Officer.

*\*Immediate family member includes, parents, step-parents, siblings, partners, grandparents*

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

*Futures Fund criteria annually and terms and conditions may be subject to change.*

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