

**The Anchor Society has been supporting older people in Bristol for over 250 years. One of the charity’s main aims is enable people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible and we facilitate this through emergency grant giving.**

**Grants – How can we help?**

Emergency grants of up to £1,000 can be given to older people in financial need. These are generally for home repairs and adaptations, but can include mobility aids and home furnishings, where there is a need that is affecting quality of life, or any other request deemed to support a person’s independent living. Each request is assessed on a case-by-case basis and the Society can react quickly to enable a decision to be made as soon as possible. Considering the urgency of most requests, we usually respond with a decision and financial offer within the week and often more quickly.

**Requirements:**

* The applicant must be 55 years of age, or older.
* Living in Bristol or the surrounding area, with a postcode BS, BA or GL.
* We only accept referrals from known external organisations, who we rely on to verify the physical or practical need and financial means of the claimant.

**What we don’t fund:**

Unfortunately, the Anchor Society **is not able** to provide grants towards the following:

general living expenses, debts or outstanding bills; moving or travel expenses; holidays or respite breaks; insurance costs; funeral costs; clothing; crockery and kitchen utensils; cleaning.

**To apply:**

If you think you know someone who would benefit from a grant and would like to apply, please complete the Grants Request Form on our website, or send an email with the following information to info@anchorsociety.co.uk:

* Name of recipient, Age and Address
* Living arrangements – Does the applicant have any dependents or other adults living with them? Are they a homeowner or renting? If renting, when did they start the tenancy?
* Financial situation – Does the applicant, or anyone living with them, receive any earned income, pensions, benefits or allowances? Do they have savings or any significant outgoings, debts etc? Please give full details of the household income, as specified on the Grants Request Form, including amounts and payment frequency.
* Health issues – Please provide details of any disabilities or chronic health issues, mobility problems etc.
* Family support - Does the applicant have family support and, if so, are family members able to contribute financially? Please rule this out before contacting the Society.
* Grant requested - What is the grant application for and how much is being requested? How will this improve quality of life? Please include quotes for any proposed work or item.
* Have you applied to any other charities? - If so, please list those you will or have applied to, how much has been pledged so far and how much is left to raise.

**Examples of how our grants have helped over the past twelve months:**

* We have provided/repaired various mobility aids, including a wheelchair, rise and recliner chair, mobility scooter and stairlifts, improving accessibility for those with mobility issues.
* We have funded essential household maintenance, including roof repairs, door and window replacements, improving the general wellbeing and safety of the occupants.
* We have supplied carpet and basic furniture for a significant number of individuals moving into unfurnished accommodation, often following trauma, eg homelessness, no fault eviction, marriage breakdown, or relocation due to physical and/or financial abuse and harassment.
* Since May 2021 we have contributed to a number of heating system repairs or replacements, as part of a joint fund matching project with St Monica Trust.
* In 2023 we provided two tranches of equipment to help elders in minoritised groups keep warm over the winter months, ie electric heaters, electric blankets and throws. This project was coordinated through Nilaari and the House of Praise Church.
* We have facilitated the discharge of patients from hospital, by funding the provision of essential items such as beds and bedding, managed by We Care Home Improvements.

**Testimonials:**

*Please can you pass on my most sincere thanks to the Anchor Charity, for all the help they have given me, in providing so many important items for my new home after finding myself homeless and with nothing to my name at such a late time in my life.  Without these kind, amazing people I'm not sure what or how I would have been able to get the basics and get it all done. Thank you, and please thank everyone for all the kindness and help I have received, during this very stressful time.* **Feedback from beneficiary, January 2024 - grant for carpets and furniture**

*I visited M this afternoon. He was delighted with the carpet in the living room and armchair, which was exactly what he needed. Carers can now visit his flat as it is safe for them. Many thanks for your help. It has made a real difference*. **Feedback from Housing Support Worker, September 2023**

*J finds concentration on things around him very difficult, an ability to interact with the ‘outside world’ that we all take for granted. He therefore is impaired when it comes to dealing with things for himself. He has needed plenty of support to get him through the eviction and homelessness process, and now to make sure his new accommodation is ready for him, and comfortable! This is definitely going to set him up for many years to come… Thank you to you all at the Anchor Charity.* **Feedback from Social Worker, August 2023**

*I visited Mr L today to take him the bedding and for him to show me his new furniture. He looks so much more together. He is taking pride in himself and his home. He is more settled, his home is more welcoming. He is so grateful for all the help.***Feedback from Housing Support Worker, July 2023**

*I was incredibly thankful for the grant provided from Anchor. In an hour of need I really felt cared for and looked after when everything else seemed to be falling apart. Huge thanks to everyone for their help and support.* ***Feedback from beneficiary, May 2023 – grant for boiler repairs***

**Contact us at:**

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