

Social Workers' Benevolent Trust

March 2024

The Social Workers' Benevolent Trust was established in 1971 on the initiative of the British Association of Social Workers: And is registered with the Charity Commission. *Charity No: 262889*

Grant Making Policy

The Social Workers Benevolent Trust is the UK's only charity dedicated to helping social workers and ex-social workers when times are difficult.

The Trust offers financial help to qualified social workers and retired-social workers in times of hardship, for example when experiencing sickness, bereavement, family difficulties or sudden catastrophe – and where appropriate to their dependants, for example following the death of a social worker.

SWBT is a charity with limited funds, and it aims to provide small grants that will make a tangible difference to the applicants.

Grants are made and agreed at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Trustees consider grants at their bi-monthly meetings, and applicants need to **fully** complete an application form if they wish to be considered for a grant.

We request that applicants also complete our Equalities and Diversity form as this assists us with funding; and helps us understand trends; and ensures that we are reaching the whole social work community.

Grants can be given to persons who:

- *Hold a professional social work qualification recognised in the UK,*
- Have been engaged in professional social work in the UK, or
- Are partners, widows/widowers, *dependent* children or any other
- dependants of the above *or their estate,*
- And, who are currently normally resident within the United Kingdom.
- Grants are available to refugee Social Workers living in the UK subject to checking their qualifications and all other criteria as below.

- *Applicants are required to demonstrate that they are experiencing hardship.
- *Applicants are asked to demonstrate that any co-beneficiaries are financially dependent on or co-dependent with them.

The Trust will normally only make one grant to an applicant in any twelve month period; a further application within twelve months of a grant being approved will only be considered if the applicant can demonstrate a significant change in their circumstances.

The Trust will not normally make regular payments to the same applicant over a number of years.

Students on courses leading to a social work qualification are not eligible for a grant.

We encourage applicants to join BASW but membership is not an essential criterion for applicants.

We encourage applicants to seek financial advice where appropriate. Details of advice-giving agencies can be found on the SWBT website.

Any subsequent applications by applicants who have been advised to seek financial advice will need to demonstrate what advice has been sought; and any reasons why advice has not been sought.

Applications will be accepted from third parties either where:

- the beneficiary of any grant is unable to make the application themselves, i.e. they lack the capacity to do so as defined under national legislation; and the third party is authorised to act on their behalf, or
- the beneficiary of any grant is aware of and in agreement with the application being made.
- Or the application is made for help following the death of a social worker.

Reasons why a grant application *may be* rejected or deferred
(the following is shown on the How to Apply page of the website)

1. You may not have read and used the information contained in the Essential Notes when completing the Application Form.
2. Your Application Form may not have been received by our Administrator at least five working days prior to the meeting of the Trustees (although we would then consider it at the next meeting or prior to that meeting if very urgent).
3. You have reapplied within 12 months of a previous successful application.
4. You were or are engaged in a role that social workers' sometimes perform but does not require a professional social work qualification.
5. You are a student seeking a social work qualification.
6. You are seeking help with the costs of private education, private health care (including therapy) or private social care where otherwise this is available through State or local government provision.
7. You are seeking supplementing income to cover *daily* living expenses.
8. You have previously received a grant and it appears that repeated grants are being sought.

If you are uncertain about any of the above, please contact us by email using the Comment form on the website.

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