



# Masonic Province of Yorkshire West Riding Almoner's Newsletter



## Special 2028 Festival Edition



Our 2028 Masonic Festival Appeal will be launched formally in September 2023 and will be held to raise monies for the Masonic Charitable Foundation, (MCF), which is the major national charity within UGLE.

Alan and I recently took part in the bi-monthly Provincial Almoner meeting, where a representative of the MCF explained the grants that are available to qualifying freemasons and their dependants. We both felt it would be useful to bring this to the attention of all Lodge and Chapter almoners to assist them in fielding enquiries from their brethren and companions.

You may also wish, and we recommend, that you circulate this to your brethren and companions, as it is important to show them what the proceeds of our upcoming festival will fund for them and their dependents.

I must stress however that assistance is given based solely on needs and is generally means tested.

This is what may be available to your members and their dependants, subject to the decision of MCF:

## **Daily Living Related Support**

- Daily living costs.
- Funeral costs.
- Boiler repair / replacement and other emergency household repair and replacement costs.
- The following additional support is also available **where a daily living costs grant has been awarded**:
  - Household arrears. Considered only as part of an initial daily living costs application. Outstanding debts for electricity, gas, household fuel and water suppliers and for rent, mortgage and council tax arrears, accrued as a result of the change of circumstances.
  - Emergency housing costs. Rental deposits / first month's rent when eviction is imminent.
  - White goods and items required for a dignified standard of living.
  - Hospital visit travel costs, and ongoing travel costs relating to a **chronic** or ongoing condition, including for accompanying spouses/partners.
  - Care home visit travel costs.

## **Health, care and wellbeing**

- Adult (16+) mental health support via MCF designated provider - counselling and Enhanced Mental Health (EMH). EMH is an extension to the counselling service providing specialist interventions e.g. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).
- Self-sourced children and young people (5-15) mental health support - assessment, therapy and counselling.
- Children and young people mental health support via MCF designated provider:
  - Ten years and under, information/advice and signposting to outside support organisations provided by clinicians.
  - Aged 11 – 15, assessment, therapy and counselling.
- Daily living aids and mobility aids, including vehicle purchase and adaptation costs where there is an unavoidable need for a car.
- NHS Dental treatment.

- NHS Band 3 treatment (see <https://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/nhs-dental-band-charges.aspx?CategoryID=74> for full details)
- Routine treatment that is not available on the NHS
- Initial consultation or occupational therapy assessment plus associated costs, up to £500.
- Manual physical therapy, speech and language therapy, up to £500.
- Prostheses
- Home adaptations following an occupational therapy assessment.
- Medical care
  - Operations, treatments and procedures that are recognised and approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
  - Physiotherapy after MCF funded surgery
  - IVF
  - Assistive technology
  - Bariatric surgery
  - Body contouring surgery (the removal of excess sagging skin and fat following major weight loss)
  - Varicose vein surgery
- Breaks for carers
  - Domiciliary respite care
  - Residential respite care
  - Day centre respite care

## **Children, young people and education**

- Special educational needs and disability (**SEND**) assessment (aged 3-17), including but not limited to dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), attention deficit disorder (ADD), autism spectrum disorder / condition (ASD/C), and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Other support including but not limited to:
  - Accommodation grants
  - Apprenticeship Allowance
  - Course fee bursaries
  - Educational assessments
  - Scholarships (annual or termly)
  - School fees in very limited circumstances

- The following additional support is also available **where a daily living costs grant is in payment:**
  - Computer equipment
  - Travel grants
  - Childcare costs
  - School clothing

### **Other**

- Independent Living Loans for essential repairs and improvements to an applicant's home (via the Victor Donaldson Fund). Please contact [masonicgrantsadmin@mcf.org.uk](mailto:masonicgrantsadmin@mcf.org.uk) for eligibility and application information.

### **Grant exclusions**

Although the MCF make remarkable provision to assist brethren in time of need, as in all things regrettably there are limits to what can be provided.

The MCF will **not** consider grants for the following:

- Personal and credit card debts
- Glasses
- Treatment, surgery or therapy for a UK resident carried out abroad
- Cosmetic surgery
- Complimentary / alternative therapies
- Hearing aids
- Short-term loans for treatments
- Requests below £100 including doctors' letters.
- 'Second opinion' consultations
- Convalescent care

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**MCF Helpline 0800 035 60 90**

**Confidential Helpline 03449 020 220**

**[Helpline@wrprovince.com](mailto:Helpline@wrprovince.com)**

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