

Finchampstead Baptist Church's Community Fund provides financial support to individuals or families facing urgent or unexpected financial difficulties. To ensure transparency, fairness, and effective use of funds, clear criteria are essential.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Residency:

- Must be a current resident of Wokingham Borough
- Proof of address may be required.

2. Demonstrated Hardship:

- Must be experiencing financial hardship due to:
 - Loss of income (e.g., job loss, reduced hours)
 - Health issues or medical emergency
 - Natural disaster or fire
 - Domestic violence or housing crisis
 - Bereavement or funeral costs
 - Unexpected essential expenses

3. Age Requirement:

- 18+, or a legal guardian may apply on behalf of a minor.

4. Purpose of Assistance:

- Funds must be used for essential needs, such as:
 - Utility bills
 - Food and basic supplies
 - Essential household items
 - Medical expenses
 - Transportation
 - Childcare
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 Application Requirements

- Two forms must be completed, one by the applicant and then one by someone who knows the applicant via an organisation who supports the applicant e.g. a social worker, a family worker, a member of staff at a charity, a member of staff at a school.
 - A short written statement explaining the situation and a clear cost of what is required.
 - Documentation/proof of the hardship situation (where appropriate)
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 Funding Limits

- Maximum Grant Amount: £500
 - Frequency: The fund is for one off gifts to support temporary, emergency hardship situations.
 - Repayment: Funds are non-repayable. We would encourage recipients to pay forward the generosity in their own way when they are able.
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 Assessment, Approval & Payment

- Applications reviewed by the community teams coordinator and a pastor.
 - Priority given to:
 - Most urgent cases
 - Households with dependents or vulnerable individuals
 - Turnaround time: All applications will have received a decision within 14 days of their application.
 - Payments will be made directly for goods or to services. We are unable to transfer money directly to the applicant.
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 Exclusions

- Requests for non-essential items (e.g., luxury goods, vacations)
 - Individuals outside of Wokingham Borough.
 - Duplicate requests for the same hardship.
 - Individuals who have already received a grant in the last twelve months.
 - Applications where there is no backing from an organisation supporting the applicant.
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 Additional Considerations

- Confidentiality
 - The only people who will see the application are the community teams coordinator, a pastor, the finance team for the purposes of making the payment.
 - Any data received via the application process will be stored and dealt with in line with our GDPR policy.
- Accessibility
 - If any support is needed with completing the form, please contact care@finchampstead.com or phone the FBC centre.