

DO YOU NEED FINANCIAL HELP?

The Foundation of Edward Storey awards grants to those in financial need who:

- **used to be married to a clergyman**, but are now widowed, divorced or separated from him or her (as long as the clergyman served in the Church of England, the Church in Wales or the Scottish Episcopal Church);
- **are serving or retired clergymen**, deaconesses, missionaries, or other women closely involved with the Church of England.

The Foundation's charitable objects mean that clergymen are not eligible for a grant, unless they used to be married to a clergyman and so qualify under the first bullet point above.

ONE-OFF GRANTS

Most of the grants awarded are one-off grants to help people cover a particular expense. Examples include:

- moving & setting up a new home (resettlement)
- white goods & other furniture or furnishings
- car repairs or contribution towards a car
- house maintenance, where it is clear that the applicant is responsible for these costs
- educational & training costs of the applicant (if not currently employed)



ANNUAL GRANTS

These are awarded to those struggling to cover basic household expenses, despite being in receipt of state benefits. They are paid in monthly instalments and are reviewed once a year.

REPAYABLE GRANTS

Trustees occasionally award a repayable grant, much like a loan. It is interest-free and awarded where the amount required is larger than can be covered by a one-off grant, for instance if someone requires a 'new' second-hand car to enable them to get to work. Repayment terms are agreed with the applicant but are generally no longer than 5 years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) Contact the Foundation to discuss your situation and request an application form. All conversations are treated with the strictest of confidence.
- 2) Complete and return the form, including finding a sponsor (eg a Clergy Widows' Officer or a member of clergy) to support the application.
- 3) Rosie Weston, the Clergy Widow Branch Officer, will process the form for it to go to the Board of Trustees.
- 4) The Trustees meet every two months; in exceptional circumstances a decision can be made more quickly.
- 5) Rosie will then inform you of the outcome and arrange the payment of any grant awarded.

Grants are normally paid by bank transfer directly into someone's bank account, however a cheque can be raised if that is preferred.

Every person and their situation is unique, so please do not hesitate to contact Rosie if you have any questions or want to talk through your particular set of circumstances.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions about applying for financial assistance, or if you would like an application form, please contact Rosie Weston, Clergy Widow Branch Officer, at:

The Foundation of Edward Storey

Storey's House
Mount Pleasant
Cambridge
CB3 0BZ

01223 364405

rosie.weston@edwardstorey.org.uk



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who was Edward Storey?

Edward Storey was a wealthy Cambridge bookseller who left instructions in his will to provide ten almshouses for Church of England widows and spinsters from certain parishes within Cambridge. Since being established in 1693, the Foundation has grown and modernised its stock of almshouse accommodation. In addition, 'pensions' began being awarded to eligible women 200 years ago.

Why do you require an application form to be completed?

As a charity, we need to ensure that all beneficiaries are eligible for a grant. The Foundation also has limited resources and so we look at someone's income and expenditure (housing & utility costs, care costs, car costs, debts etc) to measure an objective level of financial need. We base our calculations on the Minimum Income Standard produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Please do not let the form put you off applying. If you have any difficulty filling in the form, please ring or email Rosie.

What size are the grants you award?

Trustees generally award one-off grants to cover the cost of specific items, normally up to £2,500. However, in certain circumstances (eg resettlement costs) a more general sum is awarded allowing the beneficiary to choose how they spend the money.

In 2022, annual grants were between £97-123 per month, depending on individual circumstances. Repayable grants are often larger but are dependent on the applicant's ability to pay back the grant in a timely fashion.

Can you help towards care home top-up fees?

The Trustees regret that they cannot commit to the ongoing nature of such a grant; they are reluctant to start making contributions in case they have to stop them at a later date which would cause great distress. They are prepared to consider applications for respite care.

Can people who receive a stipend apply?

It would be unusual for a minister receiving a stipend to qualify for a grant as they ought not to be in financial need, however there may be circumstances where a minister does qualify.

A grant will not be awarded for professional development courses or sabbaticals.

Can I get help even if I own my house or have some savings?

Yes! Many grant applicants own, or have shared ownership of, their house meaning that they are also responsible for costly maintenance and repairs.

The Trustees take into consideration the value of any easily accessible assets when determining someone's financial need and generally do not award grants to people who have tens of thousands of pounds in their savings, unless these have been earmarked for a specific and imminent purpose (eg as a deposit for a house at retirement).

If you are not sure whether you meet the Foundation's definition of financial need, then please just ask Rosie.

Our almshouse accommodation (see below), however, is only available for people who cannot afford to buy a retirement property on the open market.

What other help do you provide?

The Foundation has 82 one-bedroom sheltered flats in Cambridge plus 8 two-bedroom bungalows in Melbourn, near Royston. Women who fall into either category listed on the front page, and who do not have the means to buy their own home, are likely to be eligible to live in any of these properties. They will be given priority for the 4 flats in a converted Victorian property on Mount Pleasant (CB3 0BL) and the 8 bungalows (SG8 6DY).



Mount Pleasant flat



Melbourn bungalow

If you would like to know more about our almshouse accommodation, please contact Jinty Keir, the Deputy Clerk, on 01223 364405 or email info@edwardstorey.org.uk.