



## THE VIOLET CLEGG FUND

### *Small Grants for Gypsies and Travellers to Overcome Hardship or Benefit Communities*

#### **Awards**

The Violet Clegg Fund awards grants of up to £250 for applications that fall within two main categories. Grants can either be for a specific purpose/item or to meet the overall costs of such a purpose or item.

Category 1 grants are those that are of benefit to Gypsies and Travellers who are experiencing exceptional hardship. By exceptional hardship we mean situations that go beyond the general hardships experienced by the Gypsy and Traveller community on a day to day basis. Examples of this might be such things as repair costs for damage or loss caused by fire or essential clothing and household items when moving into housing for families fleeing domestic violence.

Category 2 grants are those that are of benefit to a community. Examples of this might be exchange trips between residents on different sites, improving or providing safe play areas or equipment, general running costs for groups or projects or other activities that are of general benefit to members of a community.

Please remember that the examples given above are simply an indication of what the Trust might fund and do not represent any restrictions on what the Trust will consider.

Please note that the application form is designed for three different types of applicant;

1. An individual Traveller filling in the form for themselves or their family
2. A representative or agent (such as a Health Visitor, case worker, etc...) filling in the form on behalf of an individual Traveller or their family
3. A group or project

There are notes in the right hand margin of the application form telling you which parts you need to fill in and explaining what kind of information is being requested.

#### **Criteria for Applicants:**

This grant programme is specifically aimed at members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in the UK, whether traditional or new, settled or living on the road. The Trustees will consider applications for a wide range of needs but will not normally support applications for things that can be funded elsewhere – for example, by statutory agencies or other charities. This includes things like Dyslexia, Disability or Sickness benefits, Community Care grants, etc... There are many grant-makers who give out grants to support single parent families, the elderly or the disabled, for example. Please make sure that you check our website or request a list of other funders who may be able to help you before you apply to the Trust. If you are applying for something that is funded

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Registered Charity No. 299463

elsewhere, or if you are already in receipt of state benefits that relate directly to your application, you will need to show the Trustees in detail why it is that they should fund you in this instance. This means letting the Trustees know what help you are already receiving and why it is not enough.

The fact that you are receiving state benefit does not mean that your application will be unsuccessful, but it is very important that the Trustees understand what your situation is so that they can make an informed decision about your application. If you do not include this kind of information, they may assume that you can get help elsewhere or there may be a delay in processing your application while we request this information from you.

### **What the Trust is unlikely to fund**

Although the Trustees are aware that many Gypsies and Travellers face general hardship and would benefit from help with the purchase or provision of the following items or activities, the Trust has only limited funds and must ensure that they benefit those most in need. General appeals for the following items will not normally be considered unless it can be shown that there are other special and compelling circumstances affecting the applicant that are causing them exceptional hardship and where this kind of support would have a real and significant impact:

- electrical appliances like cookers and fridges
- appeals for clothing and bedding
- the cost of planning applications or meeting planning conditions
- lap tops
- solar panels
- driving lessons

### **Exclusion:**

Please note that the Trust will not support applications for funding to help meet the cost of funerals or headstones.

### **Applications from Groups or Projects**

If you are applying on behalf of a group or a project, you need to make sure that you provide the Trust with clear and comprehensive information about your group or project, such as what its aims are, who you work with or represent, what kind of a difference your work makes and how your work is currently funded. You will be required to provide:

1. a copy of your signed constitution or governing document
2. a copy of your latest annual report and accounts
3. a budget or costing for the work or activity you want funded
4. any policies that are relevant to the work or activity you want funded such as a Volunteer Policy or Child Protection Policy.

The Trust is happy to assist small groups and projects meet these requirements by providing model policies and guidance, so if you have any questions about what is needed or require help, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please note that groups or projects with an income of over £50,000 are not eligible to apply to this grant programme.

### **Other requirements:**

Please note that grants will not be paid directly to individuals but will be made by direct payment to the nominated supplier of identified goods or services or through organisations or agencies that work with Gypsies and Travellers. If you are having

problems identifying an organisation that is willing to channel the grant payment on your behalf, please let us know, as we might be able to help. There is separate guidance for organisations that agree to accept a grant on behalf of individuals. You can request that this guidance is sent out with your application pack or download it from our website.

Referees, Referee Forms and supporting letters: Please be sure to provide **two** referees in support of your application. These **must** be independent referees (i.e., not friends or relations) and in a position of responsibility (like a health visitor, teacher, doctor, minister, community development worker, recognised representative from one of the Traveller organisations working throughout the UK, etc...). Payment of grants will depend on whether you are able to provide suitable referees and all referees will be checked by the Trust before grants are sent out.

You need to give the Referee Form included in this application pack to one of the two referees you have named at the end of your application form. This form **must** be completed and signed by your referee and can either be included with your application or be sent in separately by them. Please note that the person filling in the Referee Form will need to read your application before they can complete and sign the form.

If you are able to get additional letters of support for your application, please include them with your application. This is not a requirement, but may help your application.

The Trustees appreciate that you will have to answer a lot of questions on the application form and give us proof that what you are telling us is true. We know that this can sometimes be upsetting and difficult, especially in cases of extreme hardship, but it is necessary and important. Please remember that any information given to the Trust is treated as confidential and we try to deal with each case with as much care and sensitivity as possible.

**You can send your application in at any time but please note that the Trustees meet every three months (usually at the beginning of February, May, September and November) and applications will be dealt with as an agenda item at each meeting. This means that it should normally take no more than three months for a decision to be made.**

**Successful applicants of the grants programme should wait one year before reapplying.**

If you need any help or would like to know more about the grants programme or the Trust, please contact:

Susan Alexander

Trust Administrator

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