

# Flexible Fund Information Webinar

Wednesday 24 January 2024

# This session will cover...

**Introduction to the Emergency Fund** – Rehaila Sharif and Charlotte Breen

**Eligibility criteria** – Sophie Francis-Cansfield

**Emergency Fund application form** and process – Tif Ward

**Questions and answers** – all presenters

# Overview of the fund



- The Flexible Fund builds on last year's successful **pilot** scheme and this iteration has a total of **£500,000 to March 2024**. Applications will open on **Wednesday 31st January**.
- **There are two strands of the Fund:** Flee Fund (between £250 and £500) for survivors to support leaving abusers and Future Fund (up to £2500) to help secure an independent future and prevent pressure to return to abusers because of financial strain. These streams recognise the different stages in a survivor's journey where they may benefit from the fund.
- Payments will be limited to **one per survivor, per fund** and those who successfully applied for the Emergency Fund in May 2023 are not eligible to apply for the Flee Fund in this iteration.
- Successful applications are capped at **10 Flee Fund and 3 Future Fund** applications per organisation.
- The fund is disseminated by Women's Aid but all operational procedure must be signed off by the Home Office.

# Eligibility Criteria – Flee Fund



**Any survivor who has experienced one or more of the following in the last 12 months:**

- Financial barrier to leaving shared home with perpetrator
- Financial barrier to separating from (fleeing) a perpetrator
- Financial barrier to caring for their children or caring for family members)
- Unable to access benefits or waiting for benefits after fleeing abuse
- No access to benefits because of immigration status

**AND ability to flee can be increased by financial support relating on one or more of the following:**

- Transportation costs relating to escaping abuse (taxi, bus fare, etc.)
- Accommodation related costs relating to moving to new accommodation (e.g., renting a van)
- Furnishings (e.g., white goods, carpet)
- Deposit, rent, mortgage
- Essential items (food, clothes, cleaning products)
- Securing property (locks, CCTV)
- Energy and utility bills
- Additional needs related to children
- Specialist support based on individual need (e.g., religious items, medical items/needs, translation costs, specialist equipment).
- Debt

# Eligibility Criteria – Future Fund



**Any survivor who has experienced one or more of the following in the last 36 months:**

- Financial barrier to future planning to securing independence/stability while accessing a domestic abuse service
- Financial barrier to caring for their children or other family members
- Unable to access benefits or waiting for benefits whilst moving on
- No access to benefits because of immigration status

**AND funds will support one or more of the following:**

- Accommodation related costs relating to moving to new accommodation (e.g., renting van).
- Accommodation costs relating to staying in the current property by making security upgrade (camera, lockers, change of keys, etc.)
- Furnishings (e.g. white goods, carpet)
- Deposit, rent, mortgage
- Essential Items (e.g. food, clothes, cleaning products)
- Energy and utility bills
- Additional needs related to children
- Specialist support based on individual need (e.g., religious items/needs, medical items/needs, translation costs, specialist equipment)
- Debt

# What happens once you've submitted your form?

- When you submit the form, you will receive an auto-response to confirm we have received it.
- Women's Aid will then approve the form, and you will receive an e-mail to confirm the approval. This will include a unique reference number, which you should note. We aim to approve application forms within **2 working days**, but there may be some instances when we need further information before we can approve.
- As soon as you receive the approval e-mail, you can pay the survivor the agreed sum in whatever way (cash, voucher or bank transfer) you agree is safe and appropriate. Funds will then be reimbursed to you by Women's Aid. You should then email [emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk) to confirm the date the survivor received the funds.

# Application form

- The application can be broken down into **three different sections** and will take approximately **10 minutes**:
  - **details of referring organisation and pathways**
  - **demographic information of survivor**
  - **eligibility information and grant amount applied for**
- Application forms will have set 'opening hours'
- Applications should be filled out by a member organisation or delivery partner on behalf of a survivor
- Applications are judged on eligibility, not merit

**The application form and details for opening hours will be sent via email when launched**

If you need additional support due to accessibility requirements, contact:  
**[emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk)**

# Invoicing Women's Aid

- Please submit invoices to Women's Aid by sending them to **[emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk)** as a **PDF**. You need to note on the invoice each application reference number and the amount invoiced for. You can invoice for multiple approved applications on one invoice.
- Invoices should also include payment account name, number and sort code
- Payment runs will be completed fortnightly:

Invoices sent to dedicated mailbox by 5pm on:	Payment run date:
08 February 2024	15 February 2024
22 February 2024	29 February 2024
07 March 2024	14 March 2024
21 March 2024	28 March 2024
04 April 2024	11 April 2024



# Questions?



# Contact details



[emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:emergencyfund@womensaid.org.uk)

**Launch date:**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**