

# Mali Jenkins Help Fund

## guide

### Introduction

The Parkinson's Disease Society (PDS) Mali Jenkins Help Fund is a one-off grant for people with Parkinson's disease. The aim of the fund is to give financial assistance towards equipment, adaptations and respite breaks that will improve quality of life.

If you have any questions or concerns once you have read the guide, please contact the **Advisory Services team** on our confidential Helpline: **0808 800 0303**. (Calls are free from UK landlines and most mobile networks).

Monday to Friday, 9.30am–9pm Saturday 9.30am–5.30pm

Textphone: 020 7233 5373.

Email: [enquiries@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@parkinsons.org.uk)

The fund covers:	
Equipment or home adaptations	up to £1,500
Respite breaks for you and your carer	up to £1000
Other items, e.g. domestic appliances or household goods	up to £500

If you are applying for more than the total amounts shown above, we may be able to provide some of the funds. However, you need to show how the difference will be met e.g. your own contribution, other charities.

If you are looking for funding for more than one item, please choose the item you need the most.

The fund does not cover:
Ongoing costs or regular payments e.g. care fees, bills, insurance, medical treatment or debts
Retrospective funding, i.e. items that have already been paid for

# Statutory funding

If you are looking for funding for special equipment or a home adaptation, please explore statutory funding first.

This means contacting your local social services department to see if they can help. For example you may find that you are entitled to a grant from your local authority for help with:

- Home adaptations (covered by the Disability Facilities Grant)
- Wheelchairs
- Other equipment
- Respite

If you have explored statutory funding and are unable to obtain it, please send us evidence to confirm this, e.g. letters from social services.

If you are having difficulties with this, you may like to contact a local Parkinson's Disease Society **Information and Support Worker** (ISW).

To find out if there is an ISW covering your area, please contact the Helpline or refer to the 'Local to you' section of the website at [www.parkinsons.org.uk](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk)

## Eligibility

- You have Parkinson's disease or parkinsonism or are applying on behalf of someone who does
- Or you are applying on behalf of someone with Parkinson's disease
- You have under £10,000 in individual savings or under £15,000 in joint savings
- You have a letter of recommendation from an **appropriate** professional; further explanation is given opposite

# Letters of recommendation

## Equipment/adaptation

Please include a letter showing that a relevant healthcare professional has assessed you and recommended the equipment or adaptation. For example:

A letter from an occupational therapist or physiotherapist for:

- chairs, beds, walkers, wheelchairs, scooters, stair lifts etc
- adaptations, e.g. bathrooms

A letter from a speech and language therapist for:

- Lightwriters, amplifiers, other communication equipment

For further information about getting in contact with the relevant therapist, please call the **Helpline on 0808 800 0303**. Your GP, consultant or Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist may also be able to help.

If you are unable to obtain an assessment with a therapist through the NHS or social services, you may be able to visit a Disability Living Centre or Mobility Centre to have an assessment to ensure the piece of equipment you wish to purchase meets your needs. Contact the Helpline for further information.

## General items

e.g. computers, household goods, furnishings or respite breaks

Please include a letter explaining how the item/respite break will improve your quality of life. The letter should be from one of the following:

- Information and Support Worker
- Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist
- Community nurse
- Social worker/care manager or another health/social care professional

## Quotes

Please include at least two quotes for the item. This is to show it represents value for money. If you are requesting funding for a respite break, please include a quotation for the cost of the break.

# How to apply

Please fill in the enclosed application form.

All the information will be treated confidentially and details will only be discussed with those involved in the application process. All information is stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

What happens next:

- The panel that decides on the applications meets every two months to assess the forms. For a list of when the meetings take place, please see our website or contact Advisory Services on 0808 800 0303.
- The panel consists of an occupational therapist, a person with Parkinson's disease and members of the Advisory Services team.
- The Mali Jenkins Help Fund operates on a cash limited budget. Therefore, we prioritise applications based on level of need and how the item/respite break will improve the applicant's quality of life.
- It is important to include information about the impact the item/respite break will have on your life, letters from a relevant professional and details of the benefits you receive. This will support your application.
- You will be notified of the decision by telephone, where possible, and in writing.
- If you are unsuccessful with one application, it will not affect any future requests that you might make to us.
- If the application is successful, the cheque will be made payable to the equipment supplier, or to the organisation supplying the service or product.
- We ask you to acknowledge receipt of the cheque by returning a tear-off slip. We also request a receipt of purchases where possible. We keep a record of all requests made to the Society for three years, whether people are successful or not.
- For further advice or details contact the Advisory Services team on tel. 0808 800 0303 or email: [enquiries@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@parkinsons.org.uk)