

Guidelines – Crisis Grants

What are Crisis grants?

We use the definition of crisis as 'being a difficult or dangerous situation'.

Why does a crisis happen? Usually because either there is a sudden event that has an impact on you, or that things that have not been managed well become a problem later on. People may also fall into crisis due to unadvisable habits, which can end up costing them a lot financially. We are not here to judge – only to help! Most people in this country, who lose their job, are eligible for some state support if they fall into difficulties. We provide a benefits calculator so you can see how much you would be eligible to claim (details in Financial Advice on this website). However, if there are severe rent arrears for instance then these may not be covered and there is the risk of homelessness.

The amount of money a person needs to live on can be quite subjective, and so we apply the same living standards assessments to everyone when we receive your Financial Needs Assessment form. We do the calculations using something called the Minimum Income Standards Calculator (details in Financial Advice) which calculates a 'reasonable standard of living' based on surveying the public.

Who can Apply?

You are welcome to apply for a Crisis grant if you find yourself in financial difficulties during your dance career or if you are now working in another career or if you are retired or semi-retired. Crisis grants are normally assessed as a priority, to avoid the situation escalating.

Examples of situations we can help with:

- Those facing imminent danger, such as being at risk of losing their home, e.g. receipt of a Notice of Possession order.
- Those where staying in their own home is putting them at risk
- Those who are at risk of having essential supplies to their home disconnected, e.g. as a result of unpaid utility bills.
- Those facing legal action, for instance as a result of debts/loans. For legal advice, we may signpost you to a third party for more information.

Please note this list is by no means exclusive and so please get in contact if you wish to discuss your situation prior to making an application, by phone or email – 01273 327119 or application@dancefund.org.uk.

The maximum support available for crisis grants is currently £3000, excluding terminal illness support. Please also read the checklist of requirements on page 2.

Please read this checklist of requirements before submitting your application form:

Essential documentation:

✓ An application form signed and dated by you.

✓ A recent and comprehensive CV of your professional dance career, including specific dates of each contract/employment, i.e. dd/mm/yy. CV must be in PDF or Word format.

✓ A bank statement (in a PDF, JPEG or Word format) that clearly shows the last full month of transactions, your name, address, account number and sort code

The questions on the form are designed to guide you so you know exactly what is required when completing it. You can also save the form and return to it if you wish. Here are the main things we will be asking for:

- A clear statement from you that outlines exactly why you need our help financially.
- Income and expenditure demonstrating **current** levels of each. Include details of all income and any benefits you are receiving.
- Details of **all** funding you have received or are receiving from any charity such as other benevolent funds within the last twelve months.
- If you share the costs of living in your accommodation, either with your partner or in a house share, you will need to show your contribution to household expenses.
- The amount of your partner's income (if they live with you) so we have a full picture.
- If you have children, details of the caring arrangement – e.g. do they live with you part-time, full-time?
- If you are a carer for someone, full details of the caring arrangement.

Applications that are incompletely filled out, and/or applications without the essential supporting documentation requested, will be rejected. If we can we will try and let you know the reason why your application failed. The safest way to make sure your request is considered is to make sure that we have all the information we need at the time of applying.