

Guidance on referring for Chiva hardship support

Chiva's hardship programme supports families with a child or young person living with HIV, and young adults who have grown up with HIV, who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances and have critical needs relating to economic hardship. Additional specified support detailed below is available for pregnant women and new mothers living with HIV.

Addressing basic needs

The programme can provide items that meet the most basic needs to protect health and wellbeing, such as: a bed and bedding; wardrobe / chest of drawers for children and young people; essential white goods (fridge, cooker, washing machine) and other kitchen and household essentials (microwave, cooking equipment, crockery and utensils); school uniform and school shoes; and digital equipment for education. Essential feeding equipment for infants (steriliser, bottles).

Food

Chiva have an agreed partnership with the [Food Chain](#) to provide food to families in need and formula feed to mothers living with HIV. Chiva cover the costs of the food and the Food Chain organise food deliveries and liaise with families / individuals to identify requirements.

The Food Chain are an HIV and nutrition charity, and as such their commitment is to support healthy eating.

Formula feed for Infant of mothers living with HIV

Chiva have an agreed partnership with the Food Chain to provide formula feed to mothers living with HIV otherwise unable to afford it.

Emergency housing needs to avoid destitution

In very limited circumstances and to avoid children or young people becoming destitute, referrals can be made for time-limited accommodation support, for example emergency bed and breakfast accommodation.

Travel

Organising travel to attend clinic appointments.

Eligibility

All support is available UK wide to the following:

- Families with a child / young person living with HIV
- Young adults who have grown up with HIV
- Pregnant / new mothers living with HIV (*note support for these mothers will be focused on the infant needs)
- Referrals are taken from wider professionals and Chiva staff working with young people and families.

In all referrals the reasons why the support is required and an outline of the financial circumstances of the individual / family will be needed. Referrers are required to assure the following eligibility criteria are met:

Applications will be accepted for those in the following categories:

- Experiencing a crisis or emergency, do not have access to support and have insufficient resources to meet their needs
- Experiencing poverty or destitution (*poverty defined as where a child or young person's resources are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs and destitution meaning where a child or young person does not have essential basic needs met; shelter, heating, clothing, meals every day. Families and individuals not eligible for public funds may fit into this category.) Families or individuals in receipt of any one of the following means-tested benefits:
 - Income support – Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Any housing element/benefit
 - Universal Credit
- Students needing support with moving into independent accommodation where their family circumstances fit into any of the above categories, or they are estranged from family support.

Further guidance for referrers:

- If requesting more than one household essential item, please list in order of priority.
- Unless exceptional circumstances apply (which should be discussed with Chiva), support is limited to one application per year for essential items and goods for a family / individual.
- Two x supermarket food deliveries via the Food Chain can be provided in a six-month period. Formula feed for infants of mothers living with HIV can be provided for a maximum period of one year.
- Funding for hardship support from Chiva is limited and all grants are therefore discretionary.

What we cannot provide:

- Cash payments
- Payment of fuel/utility bills, council tax or rent
- Payment of loans or debts, bankruptcy fees
- Rent costs or deposits
- Household repairs/ adaptations/ additions
- Holidays, school trips or play schemes
- Childcare/ childminding/ afterschool clubs
- Children's toys
- Christmas presents
- Televisions
- Musical instruments
- Driving lessons
- Items solely for the use of parents/ carers e.g. beds for parents
- Flooring

Support may also be available via other grant providers.

Referrers and Chiva Staff can use the [Turn to Us Grant Search](#) to identify further support.

Always consider statutory provision available and entitlement for this, particularly regarding housing needs and young people who were formally in care of the local authority.

If you would like to discuss a referral first, please contact a member of the team who will be able to discuss eligibility with you.