

Fund for Members with Disabilities

Information about the fund

Many Units, Districts, Divisions and Counties are working towards making guiding more accessible to those with disabilities. Although the majority of reasonable adjustments cost very little, there are often additional financial implications. It is important that all girls, young women and adults are able to take part to the best of their ability in all guiding can offer, whether it be in the venue where they meet, by having the opportunity to take part in a residential experience or having a buddy to support them at an event. In addition, training is available locally to raise awareness about disability and inclusion.

Over the years several individuals have very generously left large amounts of money to Girlguiding specifically to assist members with disabilities to gain access to guiding. This money is invested and, together with the annual income from the investments, used to make grants for that purpose.

Applications may be made on behalf of an individual member of any age, a Unit, District, Division, County, Country or Region.

Applications which will be considered for grants

- to assist with the cost of a 'buddy' for an individual or group of members with disabilities to attend a camp or holiday
- towards the cost of providing transport for members with disabilities to attend a camp or holiday
- to assist with the purchase and provision of specialist equipment and resources
- towards the cost of a training event for an individual or group promoting awareness of disabilities and inclusion (eg assessing/adapting activities) or practical knowledge/proficiency (eg manual handling) to maintain a safe environment for members with disabilities in guiding
- to assist with the cost of providing inclusive activities for members with disabilities at Girlguiding events
- toward the cost of adapting buildings/premises where guiding events or meetings take place to enable access and use by members with disabilities.

Examples of applications which will not be considered

- requesting buddies for individuals in a unit for weekly meetings
- for transport to and from Unit meetings
- for members of the Trefoil Guild or Trefoil Guild projects.

Making an application

Application forms are available from your Country/Region Adviser for Members with Disabilities (AMD) or from the Membership Support Services department at CHQ.

To apply to the fund for a grant you must complete the appropriate parts of the application form and send it to your Country/Region AMD for countersigning.

The Country/Region AMD will then:

- make contact with the applicant to discuss and assess the suitability of the application
- ensure that the application receives full support at a local level
- keep a copy of the application and send the original to Membership Support Services at CHQ.

A decision will be reached and the applicant advised within one month.

Please note that grants cannot be issued retrospectively.

Notification of the decision will be made to the applicant in writing and copied to the Country/Region AMD.