

BDA Benevolent Fund

64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS

0207 4864994

generalmanager@dentistshelp.org

www.bdabenevolentfund.org.uk



GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS - Please read prior to completing the application form.

We have tried to make asking for help as simple as possible. Below is some extra information about how we work to assist you with completing the form.

How do I get help from the British Dental Association (BDA) Benevolent Fund?

You have to complete and return a form, giving details about your circumstances and particularly your financial information such as income and expenditure, any savings, assets and debts. Please fill out the form to the best of your ability. The form should be submitted along with copies of your bank statements covering the last three months. We cannot consider your request without this. The form and supporting information can be sent in the post or electronically.

Please answer the details on the form as fully as you can, which will help us to speed up your request.

Who is eligible for assistance from the BDA Benevolent Fund?

The purpose of the BDA Benevolent Fund is to give financial or other help to people resident in the UK who may be in need of assistance and;

- A. Whose names are or have been on the dentists register of the UK, or
- B. Are dependents of such dentists, or
- C. Are students at UK dental schools

The BDA Benevolent Fund is an independent charity - you do not need to be a current or past member of the British Dental Association in order to receive support.

In order to qualify for help, you must have little in the way of income or savings and be unable to support yourself financially. This may be due to unexpected hardship, unemployment, illness or disability, or because you are currently unable to work or you are over state retirement age.

For dental student applicants, we would have expected you to also have sought assistance from your University's Hardship Fund.

Unfortunately, our remit doesn't extend to helping other dental registrants (unless they are the dependent of a dentist). Help can be found by using the search tool on the Turn2us website instead; <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

If you are unsure about whether you are eligible for help, or about any of the details, please contact us on the above details for further advice.

What kind of help might I receive?

The BDA Benevolent Fund will try to help you in the way that is deemed most suitable. This is usually in the form of a one-off or longer-term grant to help with day-to-day living costs such as food, utility bills, rent/ mortgage payments or assistance with getting into or back to work. No two requests for help are the same and we aim to be flexible and to determine assistance that best meets your needs, within our resources.

There is a section on the form where you can articulate about what help you are asking for. Please be specific and articulate what you need financial assistance with, and why it is important. There is no judgement associated with this – it helps us to know how the charity can best help you at this time. Whilst we appreciate that you might need assistance in more than one area, if you say ‘any help you can give’ this will delay us processing your request while we find out further information.

We are unable to assist with business costs, private health care, private school fees, legal fees or large debts.

What happens to my application form after it has been sent in?

It will be processed by the General Manager. A follow up phone call will be made to make you aware that the application has been received and to go through some of the details. Your application will be taken to the next meeting for consideration with a recommendation and you will be informed of any timescales. You may be visited by the General Manager or a local volunteer to help you with the process (if you request this) and/ or an opportunity to clarify information and receive face-to-face support.

What happens if I cannot wait until the next meeting or need emergency help?

If you feel you need immediate help, please contact us for advice. Applications can be decided upon quickly, depending upon circumstances, and we would not keep anyone waiting for a decision longer than is necessary.

Is my application confidential?

All the information discussed with or completed for the BDA Benevolent Fund is confidential and will be only be viewed by the people who are processing and deciding upon your request.

What happens if my application is unsuccessful?

In some instances, it is decided that the charity is unable to help. This is usually because upon finding out about your financial situation, it is noticeable that you have a surplus of income over expenditure, which is more than adequate to meet your current or future needs, or you have ample savings. If this is the case, your data will be removed and/ or shredded. You can appeal this decision by putting a request in writing to the Chairman. You can re-apply at any time should your circumstances change.

Where we are not able to help, we may be aware of other organisations that are more relevant or better equipped to assist you.

We look forward to receiving your application