

Richmond Foundation Catalyst Grant

CAR Guidance and FAQ

Richmond Foundation Catalyst Grant provides financial support to individuals in need, aimed at improving their quality of life and overall well-being.

The grant is intended to be used **flexibly**. It covers various needs, including essential items such as white goods, settling council tax arrears, and funding activities or courses, as well as alleviating crisis. Further information is covered in this document.

What is Catalyst Grant?

Catalyst Grant are designed to improve the quality of life and overall wellbeing of individuals:

- with **low incomes** who demonstrate a need for support.
- live in the Richmond Foundation area – **TW9, TW10, SW13 and SW14**.

Why is CAR processing the grant for Richmond Foundation?

CAR is a RF Catalyst partner and have full flexibility in how the funds are used allowing us to provide tailored support based on what we believe will have the biggest impact on the individual's circumstances. We must work alongside our clients (grant recipients) to determine what that might be.

How much can we award and is there an upper limit?

We have full discretion in deciding the grant amount to individuals, based on client's specific circumstances. However, we have to be mindful that we have a limited amount of funding until next year which needs to be shared with other clients.

Advisers are encouraged to support clients in identifying the most impactful solutions to address their current needs, with a focus on creating sustainable, long-term change.

For an indication purpose, awarded amounts in a RF Catalyst pilot scheme was ranged from £30 to £720.

Can a client receive more than one award?

Yes, a client may receive more than one award if it is assessed that it is going to help the client.

What can the grant be used for?

The grant can be used to fund anything that positively impacts the client, enabling them to build a healthy and fulfilling life and address personal challenges. Examples of eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Short courses
- Mobility equipment
- Bankruptcy fees
- Council Tax or rent arrears
- Counselling sessions

- Childcare or sports clubs
- Utilities
- Beds
- Moving costs
- White goods

What cannot be funded through the Catalyst Grant?

- Expenses that are the primary responsibility of a statutory body
- Medical research
- Animal welfare
- Politically motivated activities
- Activities promoting religious beliefs or specific belief systems (including non-belief).

The client doesn't live in TW9, TW10, SW13 or SW14. Can I still apply?

Unfortunately, not. All grant recipients need to reside in the Richmond Foundation area of benefit, which are postcodes TW9, TW10, SW13 and SW14.

In the exceptional circumstance that an individual is a Richmond care leaver and now lives outside these postcodes, or is an individual being moved to temporary accommodation outside these postcodes by the Council, they may receive funding.

Can clients access a Catalyst Grant and other grants like Household Support Grant or Richmond Charities grant?

Yes, if we think that this is the best use of the grant. The Catalyst Grant can be used whilst applying for other funding sources like the Household Support Fund Grant, using the Catalyst Grant to bridge waiting times.

Can a client use the grant to fund training and educational courses?

We may be able to approve a grant for a short course. However, clients can apply directly to Richmond Foundation using their [Education Catalyst Grant](#).

How can I check that the client needs the grant or is low income?

Some clients may not feel comfortable submitting bank statements, and we do not require that you assess them. If you already have client information that would help indicate that the client is low income, then please use this.

Alternatively, you could ask for proof of benefits. The grant is for individuals who cannot fund the cost of the item or service themselves from their income or any savings they may have

How long does it take for a payment?

It may take up to 2 weeks for the grant to be paid to client.

Helpful tips

- When thinking of whether a client could be benefited from a grant, start by asking - 'will the grant make a difference that the client couldn't otherwise afford to achieve?' If the answer is yes, speak with a supervisor to look at how we can help.

- Think differently about the grants that clients were applying for before – this grant has no restrictions and can be used flexibly; it is not a blanket grant. Spend more time with clients thinking through what will make the most difference.
- Encourage clients to shift away from short-term thinking and use the opportunity to really think about what could change their circumstances in the long-term.

Please ensure client's permission for recording special category data is obtained and recorded.