

Application to local trust letter template (branch grantmaking programme)

Use this template when you are invited to apply to a local trust in writing, rather than filling in an application form. Copy the text onto your [MS Society branch letter template](#) and add the necessary information.

Date

Name

Address

Dear (Name),

Application to fund support grant programme

I am applying on behalf of the [name of branch] branch of the MS Society for a grant of £ [amount] to help fund our vital grant programme to help support local people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS).

MS is a progressive neurological condition for which there is currently no cure. In MS, the body's immune system attacks myelin, the protective cover around nerve fibres. Damage, which can occur anywhere in the central nervous system, interferes with messages travelling from the brain and spinal cord to the rest of the body. As a result, people with MS experience a profound range of symptoms, from problems with balance and debilitating fatigue, through to full disability, loss of sight, acute pain and cognitive impairment. Symptoms usually appear in a person's 20s or 30s without warning, and diagnosis can be complex, prolonged and deeply distressing.

MS is the most common progressive neurological disease amongst young adults, and with the right support they can make a significant contribution in the workplace. Despite this, 80% of people with MS have to give up work within 10 years of diagnosis, leading to an economic cost to the UK of up to £4.2 billion every year.

Over the last 60 years, we have played a world-leading role in improving the quality of life for people with MS. We have delivered vital information, care and support, improved diagnosis, and led the development of new treatments and pioneering research. In 2014, following an extensive consultation with people affected by MS, we established a new five year strategy 'Together to beat MS' to guide our work from 2015 to 2019.

As well as offering a listening ear, supplying information and signposting to other appropriate services, we provide financial help to people with MS, their families and carers in [name of your area]. We award grants to people who can't afford crucially important facilities and equipment, and who are unable to

benefit from statutory and other third sector provision. Our support grants help everyday living, including vital home adaptations, such as installation of ramps and wet rooms as well as essential repairs and domestic appliances. Grants are also given for powered wheelchairs, scooters, and car adaptations to enable people with MS to be independent.

In our last financial year which ran from [20--] to [20--] we were delighted to be able to help [number] people by awarding [number] of grants to people totalling £ [amount]. However if we'd had sufficient funds we could have benefitted a further [number] people by awarding another £ [amount] in grants.

We predict that this figure will only rise as more people become aware of the support we offer and restrictions in statutory financial help continue, and possibly increase.

As Lead Support Volunteer [role] for the branch I am very aware of the real difference that the ability to be able to respond promptly and positively to appropriate requests for financial help can make, especially at times of crisis.

[Quote from MS nurse, previous grant recipient or similar]

Whilst the branch is part of the national MS Society, we operate independently with separate accounts, raising our own funds, organising our own events and making our own strategic and operational decisions.

If you have any questions, or would like any further information about this application then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Role

Branch Name

Telephone number

Please reply to [address of person sending application]