



The Caxton Foundation

December 2015 Update

Caxton Winter Fuel Payments

Caxton is making a winter fuel payment in 2015/16 of £500 to all primary beneficiary and bereaved spouse/partner households. Thank you to everyone who returned their bank details forms to us to enable us to make the winter fuel payment. For those people whose completed forms were received by us by 14 December 2015, the payment will go into people's accounts on 17 December 2015. For anyone whose forms are received after this date – including any forms still being sent in by new registrants – we anticipate processing the winter fuel payment every 2 weeks in the New Year. If you haven't yet returned your form, please send it to us as soon as possible.

Some beneficiaries may be aware that Shona Robison, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, wrote to Jane Ellison MP, Under Secretary of State for Public Health, earlier in the year to suggest that some of the £25 million announced by David Cameron in his March statement to the House of Commons should be distributed in the form of an increased winter fuel payment to Caxton Foundation beneficiaries. We have not been told of any decision in relation to this suggestion and we have received no additional funding for winter fuel payments in 2015/16.

Government Winter Fuel Payments

You may be interested in some of the support available through the government for the cost of fuel payments.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

If you are on a low income you may be able to get £140 off your electricity bill under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The scheme is available to those receiving the guarantee credit part of Pension Credit and has been widened for people of working age who are on a low income. The scheme is run by certain energy companies, and in some cases you need to apply for the discount. The criteria can vary, so it is best to check with your energy supplier to see if they run the scheme and whether you are eligible.

Winter Fuel Payment for those of pensionable age

The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual one-off payment to help you pay for heating during the winter. Anyone born on or before 5 January 1953 can get it, if you live in the UK or another eligible country. Find out more about the Winter Fuel Payment at www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

Cold Weather Payments

Cold Weather Payments are one-off payments to help you pay for extra heating costs when it's very cold. You will get a payment each time the temperature drops below a specific temperature for a set period of time.

You'll only be eligible if you already receive one of the following: Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or Universal Credit.

Cold weather payments are paid automatically if the temperature criteria are met; you do not need to apply for them. Find out more at www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment

Grants

In terms of financial support, grants continue to be the most significant way in which Caxton supports beneficiaries. More information about grants and the application process can be found on the "How we can support you" page of the Caxton website, www.caxtonfoundation.org.uk A copy of the grant application form can also be printed from the website.

Some grant applications can be processed through the staff team through what are referred to as "Office Guidelines". Other requests, usually those of a higher cost, are considered by the National Welfare Committee (NWC), which meets approximately every 6 weeks to consider grant applications.

Dates for the NWC meetings in 2016 are given below. Information for grant applications needs to be received in the office no later than 10 working days in advance of the NWC meeting, otherwise it will not be considered until the following meeting. However, provisions are in place for emergency applications to be considered, and if you believe your case is an emergency, please contact Nicole Hornby, nicole@caxtonfoundation.org.uk or 020 7808 1174.

NWC dates for 2016

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Thursday 21 January | Thursday 10 March |
| Thursday 14 April | Thursday 26 May |
| Thursday 14 July | Thursday 18 August |
| Thursday 29 September | Monday 14 November |
| Thursday 15 December | |

Financial support whilst undergoing treatment

We are aware that a number of beneficiaries are currently going through treatment for Hepatitis C and we would therefore like to draw beneficiaries' attention to grants which we can provide to assist during this time.

The support we can provide has three elements to it:

- help with travel costs for hospital appointments
- additional food costs relating to changes in diet
- support towards any loss of income experienced as a result of not working or reducing working hours during treatment. Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, and we may not be able to replace all lost earnings during this time.

To enable us to determine what assistance can be provided, we ask you to complete a grant application form and to provide:

1. A letter from your clinician detailing the treatment and the treatment start and end dates
2. Copies of documentation showing any loss of income that you will experience/have experienced from the point of starting treatment
3. Details relating to any additional costs for changes needed to your diet as a result of starting treatment
4. Documentation showing additional cost of travelling to and from hospital, ie copies of appointment letters and details of your method of travel.

If you would like to apply please contact Nicole, nicole@caxtonfoundation.org.uk or 020 7808 1174, or download an application form from the website.

Bereavement Grants

Caxton is able to provide a bereavement grant of up to £3,500 at the current time to help with funerals and associated costs following the death of a primary beneficiary or their spouse/partner. Following the death of a primary beneficiary, their spouse or partner can register with Caxton and apply for a bereavement grant and any other support.

Help is also available from the government at the time of bereavement if the person responsible for arranging the funeral is on a low income. A contribution towards funeral costs are available from the government and more information can be found at www.gov.uk/funeral-payments or by contacting the **Bereavement Service helpline** telephone: 0345 606 0265 (Welsh language: 0345 606 0275).

Regular Payments

The regular payments scheme has continued in 2015/16 and is still open to new registrants and existing registrants if their situation changes and they would like to apply.

Payments under this scheme have been agreed for the financial year 2015/16. We cannot guarantee that these payments will continue in the next financial year(s) – although we would hope to receive enough funding from the Department of Health to be able to provide this support each year. We will update beneficiaries in 2016.

Beneficiaries who are not eligible for the regular payments scheme are still eligible to apply for other support from Caxton, such as grants or referrals to our money management and specialist benefits advisers.

If you would like to apply for the regular payment scheme please contact Victoria: victoria@caxtonfoundation.org.uk, 0207 808 1173.

Benefits and Money Management Advice

We continue to be able to refer beneficiaries to a specialist Benefits Adviser, who can advise on a wide range of benefits-related issues. We are also able to refer beneficiaries to a specialist adviser on debt and money management issues. Both services are free to Caxton beneficiaries. If you would like assistance in this way, please contact Nicole to discuss a referral: nicole@caxtonfoundation.org.uk, 020 7808 1174.

Political developments

Since the last Caxton update was sent out in July, the issue of support to people who were infected with contaminated blood has continued to receive much political attention.

The Government announced in July that it intended to carry out a public consultation before the end of the year on the future support arrangements for people infected with contaminated blood. Jane Ellison MP, Under Secretary of State for Public Health, also confirmed that the additional, one-off £25 million announced by the Prime Minister in March would be carried forward into 2016/17 if it wasn't spent before the end of March 2016.

At the current time, Caxton has no further information regarding when any consultation will take place, nor what form it is expected to take. We also have no further information regarding the £25 million, and how much, if any, we may receive to provide additional support to beneficiaries.

In Scotland, following the launch of the Penrose Inquiry report in March, a Review Group was set up to look at the financial support schemes for those infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood in Scotland. The Group has met a number of times and has consulted with the beneficiary community in Scotland, including through a series of regional meetings and a survey. The Group has recently published its draft recommendations.

Partnership Group

A meeting of the Partnership Group took place on 25 November 2015. The minutes of Partnership Group meetings can be found on the Caxton website in the "About us" section.

Contacting us

A reminder of the contact details for current frontline Caxton staff:

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| Victoria Prouse, Director of Operations | 020 7808 1173 | victoria@caxtonfoundation.org.uk |
| Nicole Hornby, Welfare Officer | 020 7808 1174 | nicole@caxtonfoundation.org.uk |
| Yusuf Firat, Interim Director of Finance | 020 7808 1172 | yusuf@caxtonfoundation.org.uk |
| Daniel Thompson, Finance Assistant | 020 7808 1165 | daniel@caxtonfoundation.org.uk |

Christmas & New Year Opening Times

In the run up to Christmas, the office will be open up to and including 24 December 2015. The office will then close, reopening on Monday 4 January 2016.