

The Sainsbury Veterans Welfare Scheme.

The Veterans Welfare scheme was established in 2004 with the aim of providing help or assistance to Veterans and enhance the quality of their lives. As well as supporting Veterans, their spouses or partners and surviving spouses or partners are also eligible to benefit from the Scheme.

The Object of The Scheme

The object of The Scheme is 'to provide to Veterans in need of help or assistance to enhance the quality of their lives'. The Trustees must apply the income of the charity to relieve need amongst former Sainsbury's colleagues who are Veterans, their spouses and partners and surviving spouses and partners. And additionally, to relieve need amongst Sainsbury's colleagues who have retired from the Company and are receiving a Sainsbury's pension.

The Trustees are indebted to the Sainsbury Family Trusts for their continued and valuable support in providing grants to The Welfare Scheme.

The Rules of The Scheme

(1) The Scheme provides essential items to assist beneficiaries better to maintain independence in their lives in and around their homes. Such essential items might typically, but not exclusively, include kitchen appliances, bathroom aids, electrical items, stairlifts, rise & recline beds and chairs, and mobility aids.

(2) The Scheme provides for respite care and convalescence when medically recommended, but does not provide support for residential and/or nursing home costs nor towards costs such as private medical and funeral expenses, or repaying debts.

(3) Evidence of need will require applicants to provide a letter and/or documents from their doctor, hospital or another qualified person, which details the specific problem or illness from which they are suffering and the recommended aid or appliances which would improve their quality of life.

(4) In assessing the degree of support that can be provided by The Scheme, the claimant will be required to make a declaration regarding their financial position, including savings and investments, but not including their home.

(5) Currently grants for respite care and convalescence are limited to £700 per week for a maximum of two weeks in a year.

An important requirement of the Scheme is that other sources of help and support should be explored before applying to the Sainsbury Welfare Scheme - which should only be considered as a Scheme of last resort.

Which organisations can help?

Local Councils/Social Services are the best place to start.

If you are disabled for example, you can apply to your **Local Council** for a disabled facilities grant. The grant helps you adapt your home to make it suitable for a disabled person. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-disabled-facilities-grant>

On the same website, you can also apply for a needs assessment by social services - These are provided free by your Local Council. They will send a social worker or an occupational therapist to assess your needs. They'll then make recommendations on what equipment, adaptations, care, and support you need.

If your needs are considered 'eligible', the council will have a duty to offer you help and support. - like healthcare, equipment, help in your home or residential care.

Another organisation to try is **Grocery Aid**.

GroceryAid is a charity for people all over the UK who have worked or are working in the grocery industry and who find that they need some extra support to get by.

GroceryAid supports thousands of people both financially and through their helpline. To qualify for assistance, you must be able to demonstrate a degree of financial hardship and have no more than £6,000 in savings and capital, excluding your property.

They can be contacted by Freephone on **08088 021 122**

or by email <https://www.groceryaid.org.uk>

Age UK is an excellent charity <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/> **or call their freephone helpline on 0800 678 1602**

To get advice about benefits, money, and grants from a whole host of Charities, **Independent Age** is an excellent website <https://www.independentage.org> **or call their freephone helpline on 0800 319 6789**

How to Apply for a Welfare Scheme Grant

To apply for a grant from the Sainsbury Veterans Welfare Scheme, Veterans should complete a 'Grant Application form'. This can be completed online [here](#) or downloaded from the Veterans website [here](#).

Support for this process is available from either the Regional Welfare Co-ordinator, Regional Chair (contact details are on the Veterans website and in

The News magazine for Veterans) or the Scheme Manager (currently John Padgett email jpadgett6688@gmail.com)

PLEASE NOTE that applications for a grant must be made and agreed before any works commence or items are purchased, as retrospective claims will not be met.

Discounts

There are occasions where eligible Veterans and retired colleagues do not qualify for a grant from The Welfare Scheme, mainly due to the level of their savings and investments. The Welfare Scheme works in partnership with Stannah for stairlifts and Theraposture Ltd for rise & recline beds and chairs, for which we receive a discount. Should you find yourself in this situation, whilst you would have to meet the total cost of your item, if you do place an order with either of these 2 companies, you will benefit from the same discounted price that the Welfare Scheme receives. Initial contact must however be made through the Scheme Manager.

Donations

If you are considering making a donation to THE SAINSBURY VETERANS WELFARE SCHEME to give us the greatest opportunity to help all those in need, the easiest method is: To use the 'Donate to the Sainsburys Veterans Welfare Scheme' button on the front page of the Veterans website.

Or by donation using the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) website:

www.cafonline.org

Or by electronic transfer to The Sainsbury Veterans Welfare Scheme, NatWest Bank, sort code 60-07-02, account number 38557983.

Website

Information about The Sainsbury Veterans Welfare Scheme, Regional and Local Associations, as well as other information, can be found on the Sainsbury's Veterans website at www.sainsburysveterans.co.uk

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