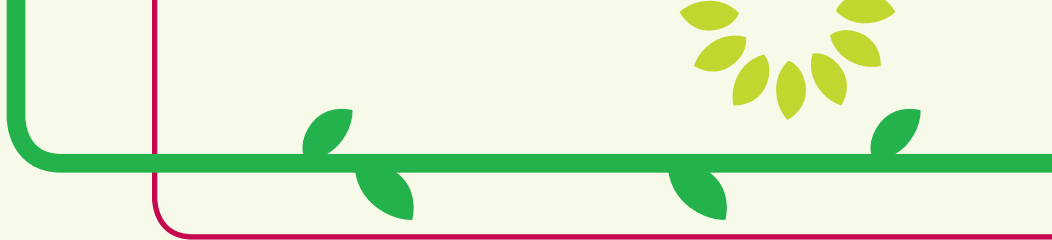




Foundations
INDEPENDENT LIVING TRUST



Helping vulnerable people live
with dignity in their own homes



Foundations Independent Living Trust

The Foundations Independent Living Trust (FILT) operates a general hardship fund (providing small grants for urgent small repairs, aids, adaptations and security measures) and a fund covering heating and insulation, both of which enable vulnerable, disabled or older people to continue living in their own homes.

Working with home improvement agencies (HIAs) throughout England, FILT provides much needed support to people in need.

The Foundations Independent Living Trust is the charitable arm of Foundations, the national body for home improvement agencies.

Home improvement agencies, sometimes known as ‘care & repair’ or ‘staying put’ schemes, provide a range of services including handyperson services, adaptations and support in applying for benefits and grants.

Each year home improvement agencies help around a quarter of a million elderly, disabled and vulnerable people make essential adaptations to their homes so that they can continue living independently for as long as possible. Much of this work is funded by Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and other statutory funding from a range of commissioners, including the NHS and Adult Social Services.

Applying for statutory funding can be a long and drawn out process. As a result there is a gap in the provision of funding to provide urgent, essential repair work for countless elderly, disabled and vulnerable people every year.

FILT aims to provide grant support on behalf of Foundations and a range of external donors and partners. Grants are targeted at the clients of home improvement agencies who need urgent financial support when no other funding is available or in some cases cannot be accessed within the necessary time frame.

FILT has an impressive track record of delivering hardship grants to support people in need.

- ✿ We have received over 620 applications for support
- ✿ We have approved 85% of grant applications
- ✿ We have given out £270,000 in grants – an average of £510 per grant
- ✿ We have worked with over 20 donors and partners to meet their charitable aims





Why is FILT needed?

England's growing elderly population raises issues around health, homes, and for many people, financial hardship.

The very nature of urgent repairs means that vulnerable people are left exposed to harm, injury, illness and discomfort due to lack of appropriate support.

Simple improvements, such as fitting grab rails or fixing a hot-water system, can make a massive difference to the health and wellbeing of a vulnerable person, ensuring they are safe, warm and comfortable in their own home.

Grants from the FILT hardship fund help people to make urgent and essential home improvements when no other support is available.





How does it work?

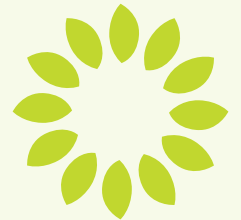
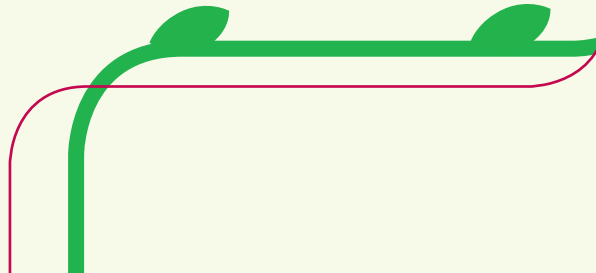
HIAs can apply to the hardship fund on behalf of clients who need urgent support.

HIAs are encouraged to apply to the hardship fund when other funding resources are either unavailable or cannot be accessed within the necessary time frame.

The HIA checks their client's eligibility and submits an application form. The application can be assessed by FILT, and a decision can usually be made that same day.

When an application is made for a large amount, the FILT team refer the decision to the FILT trustees for approval.

The process is extremely quick and efficient, which keeps the administration costs low. This ensures that more of the available money goes straight to those who need it, as quickly as possible.



Case Study

Mr J lives alone. He has terminal cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. His illness was compounded because his heating worked only intermittently and he didn't have access to regular heat or hot water.

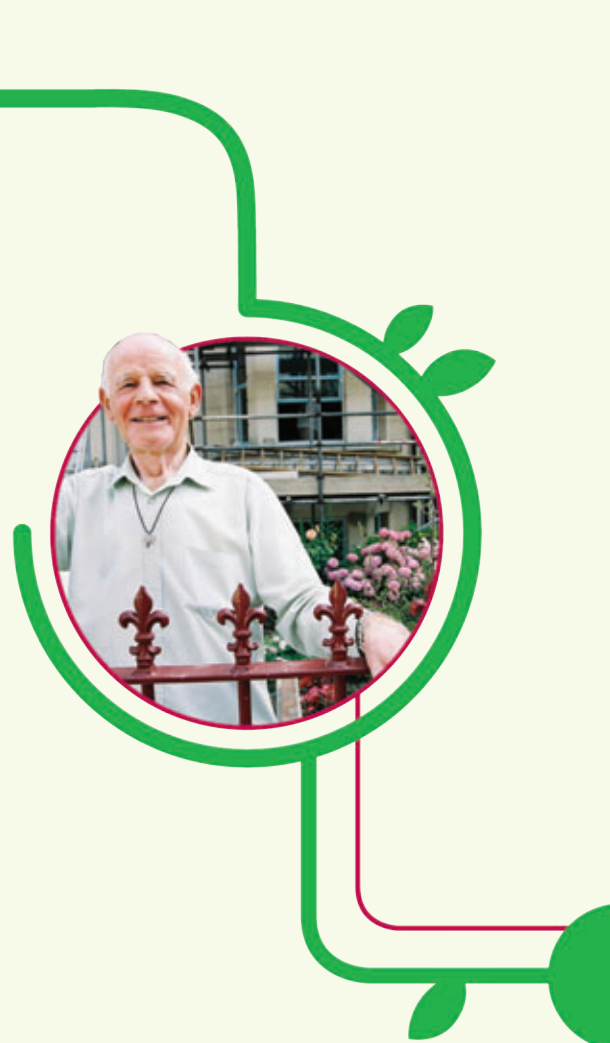
With no savings and a weekly income of only £119 from Disability Living Allowance, Mr J was unable to afford the repairs himself.

This problem was really affecting him because of his illness – especially through the winter months. Mr J's occupational therapist contacted his local home improvement agency, Peterborough Care and Repair, which assessed the repairs that needed to be carried out.

As no financial help was available anywhere, the caseworker applied to the hardship fund on behalf of Mr J. He received a cheque for £881.25 within two weeks and the repairs were carried out with minimum inconvenience to Mr J.

Case worker Julie Lewis said:

“The actual process of applying for a hardship grant was really quick and easy and I was absolutely delighted with how quickly the application was turned around. The client was in real need of support because it was almost constantly cold, which was really a problem considering his illness. The service really is brilliant.”



A message from Baroness Andrews *Chair of Trustees*



“The Foundations Independent Living Trust exists to help the most vulnerable people in our society. It is recognised that minor repairs and adaptations to the home can prevent accidents, injury and illness.

However, it is also recognised that existing levels of funding are unable to meet the needs of a great many people suffering hardship.

Donations to the Foundation Independent Living Trust can contribute to improving the quality of life and health of people in urgent need.

The Foundations Independent Living Trust wants to work with donors and

partners who are passionate about supporting elderly people, disabled people, people with health issues and the many other vulnerable people in our society to live safely in their own homes.”

The Foundations Independent Living Trust exists to help the most vulnerable people in our society by providing immediate and modest help with repairs and adaptations to the home. We know that by providing such help we can help to prevent accidents, injury and illness. It is money well spent.

But we also face the fact that existing levels of funding are unable to meet the needs of a great many people

in hardship, at risk, and living in poor and unhealthy conditions.


Donations to the Foundations Independent Living Fund can remove fear, reduce risks, and improve the wellbeing of people in urgent need.


The Foundations Independent Living Trust is a small trust meeting significant needs. We want to work with donors and partners who are equally passionate about supporting elderly, sick, frail and disabled people, who want to stay independent in their own homes. We want to help them to achieve that independence, in safety and comfort.




The Benefits of Donating

Grants are targeted at those who are unable to afford the cost of repairs or are not eligible for support from other sources within the necessary timescales. Donors to the Foundations Independent Living Trust can benefit because:

 FILT takes advantage of an extensive network of home improvement agencies to ensure your donation both targets those in need and reaches some of the most difficult to find vulnerable people

 Home improvement agencies will ensure that grants pay for housing help which is tailored to the needs of individual clients

 FILT's low administrative costs ensure that a high proportion of your donation will support vulnerable people.

UK tax payers are eligible for Gift Aid that provides tax incentives and maximises your donation, and charitable donations can contribute to meeting corporate social responsibility programmes and increase your profile with various stakeholder groups.

The FILT hardship fund needs donations now to support vulnerable people whose health and independence is greatly threatened by poor housing conditions.

How to donate

If you would like to support vulnerable people and ensure they can live independently in their own homes, please contact:

Foundations Independent Living Trust,
Bleaklow House, Howard Town Mill,
Glossop, SK13 8HT

Phone: 0845 864 5210

Email: info@foundationstrust.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1103784