



## **LIVING HOPE BURSARIES**

Living Hope Bursary Fund is offering a way for Counsellors to financially support individuals who genuinely can't afford to pay for beneficial therapy.

Counsellors can make an application to us for direct financial support for up to 75% of the counselling fee for a fixed number of sessions (up to 8). The expectation is that the Client would pay the balance, which would encourage them to commit to attending the sessions.

Once approved our charity will settle our share of the costs in line with the Counsellor's terms and conditions. At the end of the first fixed session period the Counsellor can make an application for an extension for further support, for the same Client, if needed.

Our charity's annual giving is limited to an annual counselling budget and bursaries are not offered unless budgeted funds for the full counselling period are available; extensions are also therefore dependent on additional budget being available.

## **FAQs**

1. How do you network? Initially we connect with churches known to us, explaining the process for offering financial support, so they can advise members of their congregation who might benefit from it. Our plan is to gradually extend our service as momentum grows and as far as funds allow.
2. How do NCT network with Christian Counsellors? We approach Christian counselling groups or individual Christian Counsellors known to us and keep them informed when bursaries are available or not.
3. Will NCT work with unqualified Counsellors? No, all Counsellors applying for bursarial financial support need to be active members of a recognised counselling professional organisation.
4. Is this only aimed at Christian Counsellors? No not necessarily.
5. Can individuals approach NCT directly for support? No, they will need to approach a Counsellor already linked to NCT. If they know a Christian Counsellor who isn't already associated with the NCT then the Counsellor can approach us.
6. What happens if a Client cancels a session? Our Charity will pay for the initial cancelled session as per the Counsellor's terms and conditions; any further cancellations will jeopardise their entitlement to funding.

7. How many sessions can be applied for by the Counsellor? Normally capped at 8 with a potential to extend for a further 4 if appropriate and where clear demonstrable progress is being made. This will depend on budget availability.
8. Can a Counsellor apply on behalf of existing Clients, for assistance with funding for a proportion of their ongoing sessions? Yes a Counsellor can apply for funding for existing Clients if they genuinely can't afford to pay for ongoing sessions.
9. Do the Clients need to have a faith or can Counsellors apply on behalf of any Client? No the Client does not need to have a faith.
10. Will a Counsellor need any 'proof' of the Client's financial hardship? We rely on the Counsellor's engagement with their own code of ethics as Members of a Professional Counselling body, to wisely make that judgement.
11. How and where are counselling sessions given? This is at the discretion of the individual and the Counsellor and is normally either face to face at the Counsellor's practice or via an appropriate online platform, or over the telephone.
12. How does a Counsellor apply for a bursary for a Client? The Counsellor will need to complete NCT's Application Form for a Bursary and email it to [admin@nctuk.org](mailto:admin@nctuk.org)  
We will then let you know whether or not we have the funding available.