



TRUST PENSIONS

Application Guidelines

A) ELIGIBILITY

- i) Residence in the former Metropolitan Borough of Hampstead. If you are unsure whether an address is in the Old Metropolitan Borough, please consult the street names in the Areas covered section of the website.
- ii) Minimum age of 65 years or 60 years, if there is an established disability (i.e. if eligible for a disability premium). People with severe disabilities who are under 60 years may be considered for a Trust pension if there is exceptional financial need.
- iii) Domiciled in Hampstead for a reasonable period, or have some other close association with Hampstead.
- iv) Applicants should be living independently and not receiving institutional care, i.e. they should live in a home they own or for which they pay rent. Applicants are not normally considered for a pension if they are cared for and supported financially by people living with them unless the people in question are on Income Support or themselves have exceptional needs. The pension is normally withdrawn if the pensioner enters long-term or permanent Part III or hospital care.
- v) Applicants' income should be at the Income Support level, or they should have exceptional needs, which substantially reduce their disposable income for food and clothing. Disabled Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance will be counted as income. However, if these are actually spent on buying in help and mobility, the applicant may still be eligible.
- vi) Savings should not be over £6,000.

vii) The pensioner must have some sort of essential need that makes them worse off than other people who have the same income. Examples are;

- Exceptional heating costs (either because the applicant cannot get out and needs constant heat on health grounds, or because their home is draughty, high-ceilinged or otherwise difficult to heat)
- A special diet
- Inability to use public transport
- Special need for a telephone,
- High utility bills
- Exceptional need to use the launderette
- Inability to undertake personal care

Of these criteria, only i) residence in Hampstead and vii) essential need, are not negotiable. Failure to meet the other criteria might be wavered if the need for a pension is sufficiently pressing. If you are in doubt about any prospective application, you are welcome to discuss it with the Trust.

B) HOW TO APPLY

Workers with established organisations, such as the London Borough of Camden, should make applications on the Trust's application form, normally Age Concern, A local Citizen's Advice Bureau etc. They are expected to inform the Trust of any change of circumstances of Trust pensioners of which they become aware. These include the pensioner ceasing to live independently, or substantial changes in their finances such as the award of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, or receipt of a legacy payment.

C) GENERAL

When the Trust receives a pension application, an assessment visit is made by the Trust's Social Worker. Pensions are awarded on the basis of the application form and her report. The amount of a Trust Pension is now £15 per week. These payments should not alter anyone's entitlement to Income

Support or Housing/Council Tax Benefit unless they receive other regular charitable payments, war pensions etc. If in doubt, consult the Trust. Direct credit transfer into a bank/building society pays pensions quarterly in advance.

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