

# Grants Programme

The Railway Benefit Fund (RBF) offers direct financial support to rail staff and their families experiencing hardship. The charity's grants support current, retired and former rail staff and their dependents.

The grants that the RBF provide are there to support rail families through tough times and can alleviate immediate financial hardship or fund support that will assist wider well-being.

The grants also enable rail staff to live their "every day" lives and help them to overcome the life events they may experience that impact on their financial, family, mental and physical well-being and their ability to sustain their rail employment.

## Here to help

The Railway Benefit Fund offers grants which normally support rail staff facing an unexpected life event or change in circumstances that can affect us all. These include:

- Illness and health issues
- Death and bereavement
- Relationship breakdown
- Domestic violence
- Family issues
- Unexpected expenditure
- Debts and money worries
- Changes to work patterns
- Redundancy

## CASE STUDIES

Financial support was provided to a rail worker who fled her home due to domestic violence; the RBF were able to support her by providing a grant towards essential household items including a bed.

The RBF were able to provide a grant to fund specialist counselling for the child of a rail worker that was experiencing difficulties following a physical attack and bullying.

## Grants Plus

The RBF adopts a holistic system of support for all grant applicants. Grants Plus means that all applicants are offered a check of their entitlements including benefits, government support, as well as other charities that may assist along with referrals and signposting to other services that can help. Some of these services are funded through the RBF and others are provided externally. The RBF provides a bespoke person-centred service that deals with both the presenting need and the underlying cause wherever possible.

## What can I do?

The RBF are keen to work with employers, unions and rail staff themselves to ensure that their employees and colleagues are both aware and can access the support that RBF offers.

It is very simple – make your company RBF aware:

- Publicise the telephone number, website and service to your colleagues and staff:

T: 0345 241 2885

E: [support@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](mailto:support@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)

W: [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)

- Attach a link to the RBF website through internal staff briefings or newsletters.
- Speak to a member of the RBF team to develop your own specific copy for internal newsletters and staff bulletins; including co-branded materials as part of staff engagement and welfare programmes, attendance and speakers to internal staff engagement events or specific briefings for managers and those in employee support roles.

For further information on how the RBF can help your company and your employees, please contact us on 0345 241 2885 or visit our website [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)

