

Collective Aims and Standards of Cambridge Solidarity Fund (CSF)

Our purpose

CSF aims to facilitate redistribution of wealth from higher earning to lower earning sections of society and to combat the social structures and institutional conditions that lead to such inequalities existing at all.

Our principles

1. CSF acts from a trust first basis. This means that we are non-judgmental and will not require recipients of funding to provide evidence of how the money they receive is spent. Any money is given as a no-strings-attached gift. Expensers accessing a fund can be assured of confidentiality if they wish.
2. We operate on the basis of solidarity, not charity. In line with the principles driving mutual aid, we aim to cultivate spaces where people come together based on shared needs and concerns, but encountering and working closely with people whose lives and experiences may differ.
3. We are self-organised, and independent from political parties and other institutional authorities and businesses. We may use shared infrastructure with Cambridge Community Kitchen and The Lockon, but we will make decisions independently.
4. Whilst we receive donations gratefully, the amount contributed does not amount to influence and power over decision making in CSF.
5. CSF stands against all forms of oppression, including but not limited to racism, sexism, ageism, transphobia, xenophobia, homophobia, ableism and classism. We work as a collective to fight the structural causes of these intersectional oppressions.
6. Housing and immigration status should be no barrier to expensing from the fund, and expensers will be offered different options for payment of grants where the capacity is available, such as cash drops, working with local networks and PayPal.
7. We commit to actively seeking out those in need of support by publicising, making connections in the community and seeking to engage with Expensers to move towards participatory decision making.
8. CSF will always aim to grow the capacity of the amount of funds we are able to provide to people in our area. Applicants will be signposted to other organisations that can provide support in the short or long term.
9. CSF commits to operating transparently and speaking plainly. This means anyone can see exactly what money is changing hands. Material is to be made accessible, including the use of translation, wherever possible.