

Furniture/Household Goods (Starter Packs) Spending Policy

To enable clients to start to build a home once they are housed (either temporarily or permanently), and whenever financial resources will allow, JustUs will endeavour to assist its clients with the acquisition of furniture items and/or small household goods. This is an additional service that JustUs provides so that clients have a realistic chance of maintaining any new tenancy from the outset. This policy outlines how the spending of any such financial resources is calculated fairly and equitably.

1. As a starting point, and whenever practicably possible JustUs will allow the client to choose their own items.
2. Any spending that comes from restricted JustUs funds i.e. funding that has been specifically sourced from grant makers should adhere to the criteria laid out in the original funding application up to a maximum of 15% overspend for each case. Anything that exceeds this 15% must be sourced from unrestricted JustUs funds e.g. the training fund. Any spending from unrestricted JustUs funds should have the authorisation of the trustees before this additional money is spent.
3. Traditionally JustUs has been able to access the Emmaus Solidarity Fund which gives the client £250 worth of free spending for larger furniture items. In the absence of being able to access this Fund JustUs will endeavour to replicate this service by allocating a maximum of £250 per household plus a maximum of £50 per child per household of its own funding whenever financial resources will allow. Whenever possible this money will be spent at the Emmaus site in Carlton to show continued collaboration and support for a fellow homeless charity.
4. JustUs will also endeavour to facilitate (whenever financial resources will allow) the purchase of smaller household goods and appliances (bedding, cooking utensils, kettle, toaster etc.) up to a maximum of £100 if using unrestricted JustUs funds or the maximum amount that has been allocated by a grant maker. Similar to the purchase of larger furniture items this will have a 15% overspend cap and anything that exceeds this 15% must be sourced from unrestricted JustUs funds and should have the authorisation of the trustees before this additional money is spent.
5. Any spending from unrestricted JustUs funds donated specifically for furniture/household goods with no spending criteria e.g. funding donated by a member of the public should endeavour to adhere to the criteria laid out in points 2, 3 and 4 of this policy.
6. JustUs recognises that the need for items will vary from household to household – usually dependent on the size of the household i.e. the number of family members or the household's ability to purchase its own items. In all

instances JustUs will endeavour to allocate resources in a fair and equitable way decided collaboratively by JustUs members in line with this policy.

7. JustUs relies on the integrity of its clients when establishing need and is reluctant to 'means-test' each individual household. However, JustUs reserves the right to refuse clients these 'starter packs' if JustUs feels the service is being abused.
8. Whenever financial resources will not allow the purchase of furniture/household goods JustUs will endeavour to support clients in their applications to other sources of funding e.g. The Municipal Charity.
9. This policy will be reviewed annually.

Adopted: April 2020

Last Reviewed: February 2024

Next Review Date: February 2025