**We give heart, hope and opportunity to the people of Manchester, when they need it most**

# Manchester's Rising Stars Fund

We Love MCR Charity aims to improve the lives and life chances of individuals and communities across Manchester. In our thriving city, many people are unable to enjoy the benefits of rapid growth. We provide resources to make real changes for local people.

The **Manchester's Rising Stars Fund** (created with the generosity of the Sir Howard Bernstein Endowment Fund) supports ambitious young Mancunians who might need a helping hand - the potential rising stars who will help to shape Manchester and become the next generation of achievers.

The **Manchester's Rising Stars Fund** aims to give young people financial support to allow them to take opportunities that may otherwise be out of their reach. With 4 in 10 of Manchester's children growing up in poverty, many of our young people face disadvantages as they try to succeed. Many agencies and organisations in our city offer practical support and assistance. But sometimes, a financial grant to pay for something which will help a young person to take a step forward towards their goal is what it takes to enable progress.

**We recognise that a little financial support, at the right time, can make a big difference when starting out on or progressing a career, self-employment or learning path.**

We welcome requests for grants to purchase equipment, to fund courses and accreditations, and to support other costs relating to moving into employment, training or entrepreneurship. We will only consider requests which come from young people whose financial or family circumstances put them at a disadvantage, and who are unable to meet the costs of the items or support they are requesting. We welcome applications from ambitious young people who have a clear plan for themselves, and where any award from the Fund will make a sustainable difference rather than a fleeting benefit.

By providing this practical support to access opportunities, we aim to make Manchester a fairer and more prosperous place to live, work and succeed, for all our young people.

To read some pilot case studies of young people we've supported with the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund, explore our website and social media pages where we celebrate news from all our grant programmes, including the Rising Stars Fund.

We Love MCR Charity supports Manchester's mission to ensure that children and young people have the right skills to be able to grow up happy, healthy, safe and successful. Manchester aims to achieve this by promoting a common language and developing quick and easy to use resources as well as creating a city-wide movement to embed Skills For Life across Manchester.

For further information about Skills for life visit this page, or you can contact:
**natalie.dodd@ manchester.gov.uk**

# Here are some examples of awards made by the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund

Alyia* applied to the MRSF to for support with course fees for her Level 3 online Health and Social care course – a vital step towards helping her achieve her dream of going to university. Alyia is an 18 year old care experienced young person. Her dream is to be the first person in her family to go university to study Psychology. She told us she has not had a good start in life but wants to turn things

Samuel is from a single parent with no recourse to public funds. Samuel is an incredibly ambitious and talented young man who has a passion for learning and helping others to achieve their aspirations. Samuel applied to the Manchester's rising stars fund to purchase equipment to develop creative content that addresses issues in his community and supports other young people like him. He aims to set up podcasts and other creative content to support himself and his family. We are so excited to support Samuel on this journey and can't wait to see what he produces!

Abi* applied for support to purchase vital equipment for her level 3 Nail Technology course at the The Manchester college. Abi is living in supported accommodation on a low income. She is an ambitious young woman who aims to not only finish college but to start up her own business when she finishes! The kit funded by the MRSF will enable her to do this, it could be the key to unlocking her future in her own business.

Ella is a care experienced young person who has recently graduated from the University of Liverpool with a 2.1 in Law with Criminology. Ella is an ambitious young person who has now been offered a scholarship at MMU to study Social Work which entails travel to multiple sites and a placement. With no family support, Ella has supported her studies by working in care homes. Ella applied to the MRSF for support with travel costs – with our help to buy a reduced cost student bus pass to support both her work and studies, she can carry on succeeding!

# Grant Criteria

## Personal Details

- **Be aged 15-22, OR up to 25 if they have personal experience of homelessness (at Trustees discretion)**

- **Live in the City of Manchester, and must have lived in this area for a minimum of 3 years (students who came to Manchester to study at University are not eligible)**

- **Above requirement DOES NOT apply to: Manchester City Council's Looked After Children, and asylum seekers or refugees seeking sanctuary who are aiming to put down roots in Manchester**

## Ambition

- **Applicants must demonstrate and specify a realistic ambition for success**

- **Applicants must identify their NEXT STEP to success in their stated ambition, through Work, Qualifications or Entrepreneurship**

- **Applicants must specify what items/services/support they need from our Fund to enable them to take their next step to success**

- **Applicants must have a professional referee willing to support this application**

## Financial circumstances

**Applicants must demonstrate:**

- **That household income/finances represent a real barrier to their ambition**
- **That they have exhausted reasonable options to earn, save or borrow the funding they require**
- **Verifiable evidence that the statements they make to explain their financial position are true (e.g. Universal Credit/PIP payment, young carer/LAC/homelessness status)**

## Higher Education applicants

- **Applicants must demonstrate they've exhausted all opportunities to raise funds themselves, beyond a Student Loan (e.g. by working a part-time job), UNLESS Caring responsibilities prevent them from doing so**

We are happy to discuss applications before you submit them so please feel free to contact us if you have questions by emailing welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk

All information will be treated confidentially and will not be shared outside the Charity. To avoid delays in your application, please ensure that all parts of the application are filled in.

# Guidance for filling in Application form

We will only consider applications completed digitally. We will not accept hand-written applications. You may supplement your application with other materials if you would like to. (e.g. photographs, a video submission, examples of your work etc.)

## Eligibility Criteria

**You need to meet these criteria to ensure you are able to apply for the Fund, so these questions must be answered before you can proceed with the form.**

1

### Section 1 – Applicant details

This needs to be filled in, so we know who you are, and how to contact you about your application.

2

### Section 2 – Personal Statement

This will be split between your ambition and financial circumstance. First tell us about your ambitions, identify your next step to achieve this, and what support you are asking from the Fund that will help you achieve this ambition. Secondly, demonstrate why your financial circumstances (personal and family) mean you are unable to access what you are asking for, and provide information to support this.

The more information you give us here, the better. This will give us background on why you're applying for the grant, so we can understand your situation.

3

### Section 3 – Grant information

This lets us know exactly what you're applying for, and how much it will cost. We need the amount requested to be specific, so before applying you should find out exactly what the cost of what you need is. For example, if you need a camera to progress into a Photography Apprenticeship, you should research exactly which one you want to buy before applying for the grant. It is important to show that you have researched the item, you are applying only for what you `need, that the item is good quality and value for money. Please include quotes in this section, links to websites are fine. Please include the total cost of your items including VAT, postage and packaging. If you have applied for funding from other sources, please give details here. (We are very happy to co-fund support with another funder).

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### Section 4 – Referee's Supporting Statement

A Referee is a professional person who can confirm who you are and vouch for your application and provide a supporting statement. This can be a teacher, manager, or tutor on your course if you're on an Apprenticeship. It could also be a Social Worker, Leaving-care Worker, Support Worker or youth leader.

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### Section 5 – Declaration

Please sign to declare that everything you have written is accurate and true. Please also tell us where you found out about the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund.

If information is found to be false, we reserve the right to recall funds.

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**Monitoring form**

We try to be inclusive. We need to understand the background of applicants to make sure we succeed in this, so we would like to ask you some questions about you and ask that you fill in our monitoring form. These questions are optional, you do not have to answer, and they will not impact on your application in any way.