**CORONAVIRUS – Support from the Society**

We are working hard to support our seafarers during these difficult times and, as far as possible, it’s business as usual. We are working closely with our partners to ensure that grant applications are processed as quickly as possible. Apply as usual through third party caseworkers including SAIL, SSAFA, the Fishermen’s Mission and Nautilus.

**Nautilus Covid19 hardship grant**

If you are a Nautilus member and are struggling to buy food and other essential items as a result of the Coronavirus, you can apply for a special fast-tracked hardship grant while you wait for your first benefit payment.

**The Seafarers Hospital Society makes grants to seafarers in need**

Life can be unpredictable, no matter how carefully you plan. Sudden illness, unexpected changes in circumstances, the loss of someone you love – they can all cause financial problems as well as emotional distress.

At times like these a few hundred pounds can make all the difference. That’s where the Seafarers Hospital Society may be able to help.

**Can I apply for a grant?**

You can apply for a grant:

* If you are a working or former merchant seafarer or fisherman
* If you are no longer at sea you need to have had at least 7 years sea service, or service which was cut short because of accident or illness
* If you are a close dependant of a working or former merchant seafarer or fisherman, such as a wife, husband, widow or widower, or child under 18.

**What sort of things can I apply for?**

We look at each case individually and assess the overall situation. There are no rigid rules about what you can get a grant for, but typical examples include:

* Disability aids or equipment, such as stair lifts, electrically powered vehicles (EPVs) including wheelchairs, riser/recliner chairs and adapted bathrooms
* Household items, such as cookers, fridges, washing machines and beds
* Help with priority debts such as gas, electricity, water, Council Tax and rent
* Essential household maintenance such as window repairs, heating repairs, decorating and carpets
* Urgent short-term living expenses
* Respite breaks or convalescence
* Clothing
* Help with funeral expenses

For further guidance on our criteria for awarding grants, see our website [www.seahospital.org.uk](http://www.seahospital.org.uk)