



# COASTAL FUTURES FUND

Assisting residents to realise  
their employment ambitions.



The Coastal Futures Fund is set up to support residents, their partners or family members living with them to take the next step towards work, college, university or job based training. Priority is given to applications seeking employment or better paid work. The fund can be used for training courses, qualifications, exam fees, books, tools and equipment (not laptops, iPads, PC's etc).

## History

Over ten years ago, the Swansea Branch of Soroptimists International transferred ownership of a property to Swansea Housing Association, for the use of social housing. Swansea HA then merged with Dewi Sant in 2008, to form Coastal Housing.

In recognition of this donation and in keeping with Soroptimist International aims, Swansea Housing Association set up a Soroptimist Bursary. Although the Soroptimists are predominantly an organisation for women, it was agreed that equality of opportunity would be at the forefront of our awards. The bursary was therefore opened up to both men and women to maximise potential through training.

In 2015, the newly formed Employability & Skills team took over the management of the bursary from Coastal's HR department, renaming it as the Employability & Skills fund. Since taking over the fund, the team has processed 90 tenant applications and made awards in excess of £15,000. In November 2019, it was decided that the fund would be renamed Coastal Futures Fund.

# CASE STUDY 1

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An unemployed Coastal resident with various health conditions accessed the fund to allow her to attend College to complete her GCSE Maths and English.

She wished to do these courses as she felt that it would benefit her application for future jobs and give her a better chance of securing employment.

Since receiving the award, she has gained confidence and has commenced volunteering for a community organisation. She is also looking into further education courses for the next term.



# CASE STUDY 2

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A resident who had been with Coastal for little over a year was working for a homelessness project, applied to the fund. She decided she wanted to go back to University to study an MSc in Social Work to build on the skills and knowledge already gained through her employment.

Due to the course being full-time, she was only able to work part-time which put pressure on her financial commitments to attend university. Following a successful application she received support towards new books and course fees.

She has since been offered a post in Social Work and graduated in August in 2019.



# CASE STUDY 3

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A Welsh Housing Partnership resident applied to the fund for training, to help expand her mobile beauty business.

In 2018, she received support to undertake a make-up course which allowed her to improve her beauty skills and attract more customers. She then completed a further related beauty course, which has allowed her to offer a service that is not widely available in the area.



The business has gone from strength to strength, allowing her to acquire studio space. In 2019, she won Beautician of the Year in the Welsh Hair & Beauty Awards.

# CASE STUDY 4

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A resident of ours had been unemployed for nearly 20 years due to caring for his wife. In an effort to improve his wellbeing he sought part-time employment, which would allow him some respite from his caring responsibilities. He secured a job offer for a driving position but firstly needed to complete his Driver Certificate of Professional Competence training (CPC).

He received assistance from the fund which allowed him to undertake the CPC training.

Since completing the training he has secured a position for 20 hours a week, which still allows him to carry out his caring duties for his wife.



# CASE STUDY 5

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In 2017, a joint application was received from a couple who had both been unemployed due to health reasons. They had ambitions to start their own mobile dog grooming business. With the support of various organisations and the Employability & Skills fund, they were able to achieve their dream.

They accessed the fund on two occasions, firstly for books to help them complete their dog grooming course. On the second occasion was to purchase dog grooming equipment, which allowed them to hone their skills.

Since receiving the award, the couple have passed their course and have opened for business. They now have in excess of 100 customers.