FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

So people with MACS in the UK and their families are less isolated, better connected and have access to the advice, information and support they need to thrive and confidently lead a fulfilling life.

MACS
Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia & Coloboma Support

www.macs.org.uk

Registered Charity England and Wales (1161897) and Scotland (SC052711)

ONE PAGE SUMMARY

Living with a disability brings significant extra costs - £1,095 per month on average for disabled households (Scope, 2025). These include specialist equipment, home adaptations, transport, and additional care. For many MACS families, often on low incomes, these costs create real financial hardship.

- Nearly half of people in poverty live in a household with a disabled person
- Disabled adults face employment barriers: only 53% employed vs. 82.5% non-disabled, and earn 12.2% less on average
- Cuts to benefits and rising living costs leave families unable to afford essentials or vital aids, forcing difficult choices and debt.

Our Response: Helping Hand Programme

Helping Hand provides targeted support to subsidise essential costs, ensuring families can access what they need without undue financial stress. We fund:

- Sensory-based equipment (Braille tech, envision glasses)
- Assistive technology (JAWS screen readers, iPads for education)
- Confidence-building activities and respite
- Access to MACS services for families in hardship
- Requests range from £200–£5,000, and all awards are made through a formal process - no cash grants. MACS purchases items directly.
- 95% of recipients say Helping Hand enabled them or their child to do something they otherwise could not.

Impact & Reporting

We measure success against outcomes on our Theory of Change. Funders receive two generic updates as well as a personalised impact report after 12 months, including stories and outcomes.

Why Your Support Matters

MACS receives no state funding and relies entirely on charitable contributions. Every gift directly benefits families - 100% of donations go to Helping Hand. Your support will ensure that financial hardship does not prevent children and adults with MACS from accessing life-changing opportunities.

Impact Metric 1
Reduced pressures on daily life

Impact Metric 2
Better connected to sources of support

Impact Metric 3
Improved wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance