

A guide to grants

Financial assistance and other forms of support are often available from grant-giving organisations, charities and funds, depending on your particular background and circumstances. If you are an individual seeking help for yourself or someone close to you, this factsheet has basic information on where to find grants and how to apply.

This information is for general guidance only. We do not offer an exhaustive list of grant providers and inclusion on the list does not imply recommendation by Carers' Resource.

Most grant-making organisations have specific criteria relating to people they can help - these may cover:

- a disability or illness
- current or previous employment e.g. agriculture, music, forces
- people living in a specific area
- religions/faiths

What is a grant?

A grant is a sum of money made available to an individual for a specific product or service. This will depend on the circumstances of the applicant and the criteria of the organisation which awards grants. Grants can be paid as a one off sum, directly to a supplier or as a recurrent grant in the form of an allowance.

What can grants be used for?

Evidence from the Charity Commission (2008) *The Prevention or Relief of Poverty for the Public Benefit*, lists what type of help can be given. Grants may be offered to:

Relieve poverty e.g. one-off payments in a crisis or disaster; payments to meet travel expenses; payments to assist in meeting fuel bills.

Provide essential items e.g. furniture, bedding, clothing, heating appliances.

Pay for services e.g. essential house decorating; repairs or insulation; white goods such as washing machines, fridge freezers; short break/holiday or respite care.

Provide facilities e.g. supply of books or tools needed for study; payments for examinations, vocational training or technical skills

Who can apply for a grant?

Any individual who meets the criteria of the grant-making organisation can apply for a grant.

How to apply for a grant

A grant-making organisation will usually have an application form to complete and submit or they may request a letter. A letter should include:

1. Your full details or those of the person for whom you are requesting funding
2. Background information about the situation/reasons for seeking a grant
3. The amount of funding or specific item which is needed
4. How meeting your request for help will make a difference to your circumstances



It is not unusual for a grant-making body to ask for a third party to complete an application on your behalf or to supply a supporting statement. This could be a social care worker, health professional, CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) advisor, charity worker or another professional who knows you and is familiar with your situation.

Grant-making organisations which specifically require information from a third-party will often **not** accept applications submitted by individuals so it is important to check exact requirements before an application is made.

Where to find grants

In order to identify as many options as possible, take into account your age, disability/illness, previous employment, income, personal circumstances, religion and where you live/have previously lived.

Contact the Carers' Resource's Information Team for help in finding charities in your area (our details are on page 4).

Here is a list of suggestions of where to look for grant-making organisations, charities or potential sources of funding:

A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need 2015/2016

Authors: Jennifer Reynolds & Denise Lillya. Published by Directory of Social Change. 2015.

This publication lists over 2000 trusts. Sections include charities relating to service and ex service personnel, specific occupations, illness and disabilities.

It is available for reference at your local Carers' Resource.

Charis Grants are available for individuals struggling to pay fuel and/or water bills, or people who need help to purchase an essential item. Grants help customers of fuel/water suppliers: British Gas, Business Energy, Cambridgeshire County Council, EDF Energy, E.ON Energy, First Utility, nPower, Anglian Water, Scottish Power, Sutton and East Surrey Water and Utility Warehouse.

For an application form, call: 01733 421060; web: charisgrants.com

Elizabeth Finn Care is a national charity that gives direct financial support to individuals in need. Freephone:0808 802 2000; web: elizabethfinncare.org.uk

Family Action is a national organisation which provides services to disadvantaged and socially isolated families. The organisation has a grants helpline which provides information about grants for educational and welfare needs.

Tel: 020 7254 6251 (Wednesday, Thursday 2pm-4pm);

web: family-action.org.uk

Family Fund helps low income families raising a disabled or seriously ill child/ young person (aged 17 or under). Applications can be made by a parent or carer and young people aged 16 or 17 can apply in their own right. Help provided could include holidays, computers, driving lessons for parent carers, washing machines to cope with extra laundry needs and hospital visiting costs. Proof of benefits eligibility required.

Tel: 01904 621115; web: familyfund.org.uk



Lions, Rotary and Round Table are charitable organisations which make grants to individuals in need. Carers' Resource offices can provide local details or contact:

Lions:	0845 833 9502	web: lions105c.org.uk
Rotary:	01789 765411	web: rotarygbi.org
Round Table:	0121 456 4402	web: roundtable.co.uk

SSAFA (The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) provides financial, practical and emotional assistance to people who serve in the Armed Forces, to those who used to serve and to their families.

National helpline: 0800 731 4880 (Monday – Friday, 10.30am – 7.30pm)

Web: www.ssafa.org.uk

Local help:

North Yorkshire: 01904 492562 Monday and Wednesday, 10.00am – 1.00pm.
(Leave a message if calling outside these times)

West Yorkshire: 0113 244 9254 (Leeds) 01535 669 354 (Keighley)

Turn2us is a charity which helps people in need to access benefits, grants and other financial help – online, by phone or face-to-face through partner organisations. Offers comprehensive accessible website to find sources of financial support, including a benefits calculator and grants search facility. Turn2us is a part of Elizabeth Finn Care.

Tel: 0808 802 2000; web: turn2us.org.uk

Funding from national or local government sources:

Budgeting Loans, administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), can help you to pay for essential things such as rent, furniture, clothes or hire purchase debts. The smallest amount you can borrow is £100. These loans are interest-free. You can apply for a loan if you have been receiving income-related benefits for at least 26 weeks. Budgeting Loans do not affect your benefits. Loans must be repaid within two years.

Details from Jobcentre Plus: 0345 603 6967 or web: gov.uk (you can download an application form SF500).

Local authority assistance schemes Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants have been replaced by new schemes, administered by local authorities and funded by a fixed grant from the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions).

The local assistance fund will not replicate what was previously provided by the government. For example, no cash payments, crisis loans or community care grants will be available. Awards will be made in kind, for example by supplying household goods and basic necessities.

Further information is available from:

Bradford Metropolitan District Council: 01274 432111

North Yorkshire County Council: 08458 727374



If you need further information or would like to discuss any aspect of your caring role, please contact Carers' Resource. Our details are listed overleaf.

Carers' Resource contacts:

Harrogate 01423 500555

11 North Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5PD

Bradford 01274 449660

15 Park View Court, St Paul's Road, Shipley, BD18 3DZ

Ripon 01765 690222

Community House, Sharow View, Allhallowgate, Ripon, HG4 1LE

Skipton 01756 700888

Griffin House, Broughton Hall Business Park, Skipton, BD23 3AN

info@carersresource.org

www.carersresource.org

We can provide this information in other formats (large print, Braille and audio) and in other languages.

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