

Parent carers: A guide to grants

A grant is financial help given as a sum of money, or as a product or service, to people who need it. It doesn't have to be paid back. Grants are often given by charitable organisations and they usually have strict eligibility criteria about who can be given grant funding and what it can be used for. There are different ways of applying and different eligibility criteria for every charitable fund so check carefully that you meet the organisation's requirements before making an application for assistance.

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, Citizens Advice 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.

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

Carers Trust provides financial support to individual carers aged 16 years and over. Carers can apply for items or activities that will benefit them in their caring role. Eligibility criteria apply. Contact your local carer service for advice. They will need to complete an online application form on your behalf.

Charis Grants are available for individuals struggling to pay fuel and/or water bills. Grants help customers of many of the major fuel/water suppliers but you do not always need to be a customer of the energy/water company.

For more information call 01733 421021; www.charisgrants.com



Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

You could receive a DFG from your council if you're disabled and need to make changes to your home because of your disability. A DFG will not affect any benefits received. Depending on your income, you may need to pay towards the cost of the work to the property. Disabled children under 18, however, can get a grant without their parents' income being taken into account.

You may be eligible if:

- you or someone living in the property is disabled
- you own the property or are a tenant
- you intend to live in the property for at least 5 years

Contact your local council for more information. Go to www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council for their contact details. You may not receive a grant if you start work on your property before the council approves your application.

Elizabeth Finn Fund (Turn2Us) provides one-offs and recurring grants for people who are British or Irish to assist with moving expenses, respite care, essential items, transport expenses, house repairs and disability aids. Eligibility criteria apply.

Application is online through the Turn2Us grants search (see below). If unable to apply online a paper copy of the application form can be requested from Elizabeth Finn Fund, Hythe House, London W6 7NL

Family Action is a national organisation supporting families in need with welfare and education grants. Eligibility criteria apply.

Application is online: www.family-action.org.uk. If you require further information contact is by email only as they are unable to take telephone enquiries.

Family Fund helps low income families raising a disabled or seriously ill child/young person (aged 17 years or under). Applications can be made by a parent or carer. Help provided could include holidays, computers and tablets, driving lessons, kitchen appliances including washing machines, getting a pet and outdoor play and leisure equipment. All eligibility criteria must be met and proof of benefits eligibility will be required.

Apply online, download an application form or request one to be sent to you.

Tel: 01904 550055; www.familyfund.org.uk

Family Holiday Charity helps families with at least one child under 18 years, who are on a low income and have not had a holiday for four years, to have a break. Applications for holidays will be open from January 2024. All families must be referred by someone working with them in a supporting role.

Tel: 0203 117 0650; www.familyholidaycharity.org.uk/

Grants for Children and Young People, a section of the Disability Grants service, lists charities and trusts that offer grants to families with a disabled child. They provide information about the eligibility criteria and method of application. Go to the website: www.disability-grants.org for further information.



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:	0121 441 4544	web: lionsclubs.co
Rotary:	01789 765 411	web: rotarygbi.org
Round Table:	0121 456 4567	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 260 6767; www.ssafa.org.uk

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

Helpline is online at turn2us.custhelp.com/ www.turn2us.org.uk

Warm Home Discount Scheme. You may be eligible for a one-off discount on your electricity bill (or gas bill if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity). You must be on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria. A list of suppliers that are part of the scheme can be found at www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/energy-suppliers. For further information contact your energy supplier.

Yorkshire Children's Trust supports children with life-changing illnesses or disability. They offer small grants to help towards Hospital Stay, Counselling & Therapies, and Short Breaks in Skegness. Application is online. For more information go to www.yctrust.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 loans. The lowest 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 6 months. Budgeting Loans do not affect your benefits. Loans must be repaid within two years.

More details on www.gov.uk/budgeting-help-benefits (where you can download an application form SF500, or apply online).

If you are currently claiming Universal Credit you should apply online for a **Budgeting Advance** instead (contact your local Jobcentre Plus work coach to apply).



The **North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund** provides support for families at risk of breaking apart to stay together. Awards are made in the form of goods, not cash. Items requested must be essential and critical to the needs of the family. They include items of household furniture and equipment, beds and bedding, food vouchers, clothing vouchers, utility top-ups, and other essential items. Applications can only be made by authorised agents.

www.northyorks.gov.uk/adult-care/social-care-adults/stay-your-home/local-assistance-fund; for queries or further information email nylaf@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: inclusion on our list does not imply recommendation or endorsement by Carers' Resource.

Carers' Resource has produced a range of factsheets that you may also find useful:

- Parent carers: National organisations
- Parent carers: Support and activities in the Bradford District
- Parent carers: Support and activities in the Craven area
- Parent carers: Support and activities in the Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon areas

If you would like a copy of any Carers' Resource factsheet, please contact your local office – details on page 5 – or download from www.carersresource.org.

If you need further information or would like to discuss any aspect of your caring role, please contact Carers' Resource:

Telephone: **0808 50 15 939**

info@carersresource.org

www.carersresource.org

Harrogate Unit 3, Grove Park Court, Grove Park Terrace, Harrogate, HG1 4DP

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

Skipton Ronaldsway House, 36 Brook Street, Skipton, BD23 1PP

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

Date of Information: October 2023; revise by October 2024

