

Carers Grants – What we can help with



Carers Essentials

Carers can apply for grants of up to £300 towards the cost of ONE piece of household equipment which will benefit them in their caring role.

These items can include (but are not restricted to):

- Washing machines
- Cookers
- Fridge-freezers
- Beds

A standard price list for household items, based on an average price across a number of retailers can be found in Appendix 1 on the Carers Essentials Guidance Notes. This is to ensure good value for money so that Carers Trust can maximise the use of available funds. Please take this into account when sourcing quotes for equipment as, unless an exceptional circumstance has been detailed, we will award the amounts on this list as the maximum.

In exceptional circumstances applications for multiple items (totalling no more than £300) may be considered. In these cases the items should ideally be interdependent (e.g. washing machine and outside airer) and the exceptional circumstance you would like the assessment team to consider should be outlined in the application.

Carers Take Time Out

Carers can apply for grants of up to £400 to enable them to take a break from their caring role.

Up to £160 (or 40% of the total grant awarded) can be used to pay for replacement care if needed. This care can be accessed at the home of the person in receipt of care, in a respite care facility, or on the break itself. Replacement care may be able to be accessed through a local Carers Trust scheme. Contact details can be found on www.carers.org

Please note the following:

- The grant can include the cost of the person in receipt of care and/or a family member, partner or friend to accompany the carer on the break.
 - The break can be taken in the UK or abroad.
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Carers: Skills for You

Carers can apply for grants of up to £500 to enable them to learn new skills that will assist them in their caring role, help them to return to work or enable them to have a new interest outside their caring role. Up to £200 (or 40% of the total grant awarded) can be used to pay for replacement care if needed whilst the carer is taking part in the course or activity.

Carers can apply for grants towards the following:

- The cost of courses, training, or tuition.** These courses can be educational or vocational. The purpose could be that the carer can return to work or re-train in a career more suited to maintaining their caring role, it could give them skills that will benefit them in their caring role, or enable them to have a new interest or focus outside of their caring role. In the past Carers Trust has funded access to a range of courses such as creative writing, sign language, counselling courses and training for an HGV license.
 - Costs associated with course materials,** books and/or any necessary equipment relevant to the activity.
 - Costs for applicable travel and subsistence costs.** If including costs for car travel, please ensure that these do not exceed 45p per mile.
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Carers Access

Carers can apply for grants of up to £350 towards the cost of driving lessons or other forms of transport that would benefit them in their caring role. Carers Access aims to remove some of the transport-related barriers to living a full and independent life that may have been placed on a person by their caring role. Up to £140 (or 40% of the total grant awarded) can be used to pay for replacement care if needed.

If the request is for driving lessons the carer will need to demonstrate the following:

- The benefit of learning to drive to their caring role and their quality of life in general
- That they are in possession of a provisional licence
- How they intend to continue to pay for any additional lessons going forward, if needed.
- That the carer will have access to a vehicle after passing their test. Carers Access is restricted to those who will have proven access to a vehicle/ confirmed eligibility for the Motability Scheme.
- How they intend to cover the running costs associated with driving – this includes costs such as petrol, insurance, and car maintenance.

Carers can apply for a grant towards the cost of **other forms of transport** if they can demonstrate that it will be beneficial to them in their caring role and/or in improving their independence and quality of life. Examples could include (but are not restricted to) transport to visit the person in receipt of care in hospital/ residential care or transport to partake in an activity with other carers.
