

COMMUNITY CARE GRANTS



If you need financial help to live independently in the community or to ease exceptional pressure on you and your family you may be able to get a Community Care Grant.

You don't have to pay it back.

Who is eligible?

You can apply for a Community Care Grant if you are either:

- already getting Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, or payment on account of one of these benefits
- likely to start getting one of these benefits within the next six weeks because you're moving out of care

And any one of the following applies:

- you're moving out of residential or institutional care to live independently
- you're moving to a new home which will be more suitable for you following an unsettled period in your life and are being resettled by an organisation like a local council or voluntary organisation
- you need help to stay in your home and not go into residential care or hospital
- you need help because you or your family face exceptional pressure, such as family breakdown or because one of you has a long-term illness
- you look after someone who is ill or disabled, or has been released from custody on temporary licence
- you need help with expenses such as visiting someone who is ill, or to attend a relative's funeral

How much do you get?

The amount you might get depends on your circumstances.

Effect of savings on awards

The amount of Community Care Grant you may get is reduced if you have savings of:

- over £500 where you and your partner are aged under 60
- over £1,000 where you and/or your partner are aged over 60

How it's paid

The grant is usually paid into your bank, building society or other account provider's account that you have nominated.

Effect on other benefits

A Community Care Grant doesn't count as income and won't affect other benefits you may be getting.



You won't get a Community Care Grant for:

- any need which occurs outside the United Kingdom
- educational or training expenses
- a distinctive school uniform, sports clothes or equipment
- travelling expenses to and from school
- school meals
- expenses in connection with court or legal proceedings
- removal charges expenses or storage charges, where the local authority can help with these
- domestic help or respite care
- repairs to local authority or housing association homes
- medical, surgical, optical, aural or dental items or services
- debts to government departments, including tax arrears
- investments
- Council Tax
- most other housing costs
- fuel costs, except in certain circumstances
- expenses of less than £30, except for travelling or daily living expenses
- work related expenses
- cost of buying, renting or installing telephones and call charges
- daily living expenses such as food and groceries (except if for caring for a prisoner or young offender on release on temporary licence)

You can't usually get a Community Care Grant if you have already asked for the same items or services in the last year. (It has just changed from 28 days to 1 year)

How to apply

- Go to your local jobcentre plus office and ask for a Community Care Grant form
 - Download a copy of the form from the Directgov website.
www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Caringforso/meone/DG_10018921
 - Contact Jobcentre Plus to find out where to send your completed form.
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When to apply

You should usually apply straight away.

If you're still in residential or institutional care, you can apply up to six weeks before you are due to leave.

What to do if you are unhappy with the decision on your application

If you're unhappy with a Community Care Grant decision or award you have the right to ask for a review. You must write to Job Centre Plus within 28 days explaining why you think the decision was wrong and ask for it to be reviewed.

If you're still unhappy with the outcome, you can ask for a further review by a Social Fund Inspector. The review process is quick and simple, and should take no longer than 12 days.

We cannot be held responsible for the level of service provided by the organisations included in this publication.

All details correct at time of publication, if you find that this info is inaccurate please call us.

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