

Carers Grant Criteria (please read this before applying)

Carers in Bedfordshire administer Carers Grants on behalf of NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to enable unpaid carers, who provide substantial care, to access a break, activity, service or training, to improve their health or wellbeing.

Full Carers Grant and Fast Track Carers Grant			
Who can apply?	<p>In order to apply, a carer must fulfil <u>ALL</u> of the following: If not your application will be rejected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be a carer who is registered with an NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group surgery (<i>please see page 3 to find out if your surgery is a member of NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group</i>). ✓ Be a carer who is registered with Carers in Bedfordshire. ✓ Be a carer, including young/sibling carer aged 4 years and above, who provides substantial, unpaid care (excluding benefits) to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour. ✓ Be a carer who has a long term health condition OR whose health or wellbeing is affected by their caring role. 		
What can I apply for?	<p>A break, activity, service or training which will significantly improve your health or wellbeing as a carer. E.g. day trips, health treatments, training, gym membership, a holiday break (<i>10 years old and over only</i>), driving lessons. You will need to demonstrate how it will improve your health and wellbeing.</p>		
When is the deadline for applications?	Type:	Full Grant	Fast Track Grant
	Amount:	Over £120 *	Up to £120
	Max per year:	one	two
	When can I reapply	12 months after awarded or declined	After first grant has been fully used.
	Timescales:		
	- Application deadline	by 4.30pm on 15th of month **	Anytime
	- Assessment	monthly panel	Fortnightly
	- Response	at the end of month	We aim to respond within two weeks
	- Access (start spending) within	3 months	1 month
	<p>* Note: exceptional cases may be awarded in excess of £300.</p> <p>** When the 15th falls on the weekend or a bank holiday, the deadline will be the working day before the 15th. If your application is received after this date then your application will be considered by the panel the following month.</p> <p><i>Please note: There are no full panel meetings in December. Full Grant applications will be assessed at the January panel. Fast Track applications received after 15th December may not be considered until January.</i></p>		
Can the grant be used for something that I have already bought or a holiday I have already been on?	<p>Carers cannot access the product or service being applied for before the 1st of the month in which their application is to be considered. If carers pay for a product or service before the grant panel meets it is at their own risk. If you choose to do this, please be aware that there is no guarantee that the application will be successful and there is no guarantee that the full grant amount requested will be awarded.</p> <p>In months where we receive a high volume of applications, there is a possibility that your application may be ‘deferred’ to be assessed the following month.</p> <p><i>Carers in Bedfordshire will not be held responsible if you book your activity or event based on the assumption that you will be awarded.</i></p>		

How often can I apply?	<p>Carers may re-apply for a grant 12 months from their last Full Grant application, if they still meet the criteria.</p> <p>Carers may apply for two Fast Track grants in any 12 month period, if they still meet the criteria. One person can only have one grant open at a time.</p>
How many people per family can apply?	<p>We can only accept a maximum of 3 applications per household/family, per year, i.e. one Full Grant and one Fast Track Grant or up to three Fast Track Grants per household/family per year</p>

Frequently asked questions

Can I use the grant to fund something that I receive direct payments for?

No, Carers Grants cannot be used to fund something that you already receive direct payments for.

Who can endorse my grant application?

Your application needs to be endorsed by a professional who understands your role as a carer, this **must not** be a friend or family member or an individual or representative of an organisation who will benefit directly from your Carers Grant award.

Examples of professionals who can endorse your application include a GP, Nurse, Social Worker, Support Worker, Teacher, Teaching Assistant or Family Support Worker.

Can I make changes to my grant request?

Once an application has been submitted, it **should not be changed**, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Changes and alterations made to a grant application form need to be initialled by the endorsing professional to show that they are in agreement with these changes, this may delay your application. Once awarded, you **cannot change** your grant request, unless there are exceptional circumstances. In this case, your application will need to go back to the panel for consideration.

How do the panel assess applications?

The panel assesses each application based on a number of factors.

- The carer's own health condition/health and wellbeing,
- The level of substantial care that the carer provides and
- The effectiveness of what the grant will be used for in relation to the carer's health and wellbeing.

The panel considers a very high number of applications each month and allocates the grant funds available based on how closely each application meets these criteria. Once a grant has been awarded, the panel's decision is final.

If I am awarded a Grant, how will I access my grant fund?

You have two ways to access your grant

1. If you can pay upfront for the item then you can claim back by sending in your receipts along with a completed bank details form that will be sent to you.
2. We can pay companies directly for you if you are unable to pay upfront *however, we cannot order any items that cost more than your grant award, even if you are going to pay the difference. Online orders may take up to 5 working days to process.* In circumstances where you cannot pay for an item upfront we can order products for you and get them delivered to an address of your choice i.e. we can order tickets for day trips, pay invoices for holidays or get items ordered and delivered.

Please note, if awarded, we **cannot make any payment to you without a valid receipt**, if you are unable to pay for the break/service in advance, please request that the service invoices Carers in Bedfordshire direct for the amount awarded.

NHS Bedfordshire GP Surgeries

Bedford (19 GP Practices)	Chiltern Vale (9 GP Practices)	Ivel Valley (8 GP Practices)	West Mid Bedfordshire (7 GP Practices)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Basra, Ashburnham Road Surgery (Amphill Road) - Caudwell Medical Centre - De Parys Group (Bedford and Bromham) - Dr Das, 12 Goldington Road Surgery - Goldington Avenue Surgery - Great Barford Surgery - Harrold Medical Centre - King Street Surgery, Kempston - Linden Road Surgery (Tyne Crescent Surgery and Bromham Surgery) - London Road Health Centre (Bedford and Elstow Medical Centre) - Priory Medical Practice - Putnoe Medical Centre - Riverfield Drive and Queens Park Surgery - Rothesay Surgery - Sharnbrook Surgery - Shortstown Surgery - St John's Surgery - The Village Medical Centre, Great Denham - Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caddington Surgery - Eastgate Surgery - Houghton Regis Medical Centre - Kingsbury Court Surgery - Kirby Road Surgery - Priory Gardens Surgery - Toddington Medical Centre - West Street Surgery - Wheatfield Road Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arlesey Medical Centre - Saffron Health Partnership - Dr Cakebread and Partners, Shefford Health Centre - Ivel Medical Centre, Biggleswade - Larksfield Surgery, Stotfold - Greensands Medical Practice (Potton and Gamlingay) - Dr Collins and Partners, Lower Stondon Surgery - Dr Kapur and Partners, Sandy Health Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asplands Medical Centre and Woburn Surgery - Cranfield and Marston Surgery - Greensand Surgery, Amphill - Flitwick Surgery, Highlands - Dr Glaze and Partners, The Surgery, Barton-le-Clay and The Health Centre, Luton - Houghton Close Surgery - Oliver Street Surgery, Amphill and Oliver Street Branch Surgery, Wilstead
	Leighton Buzzard (3 GP Practices)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bassett Road Surgery - Leighton Road Surgery - Salisbury House Surgery 		

This list was updated in October 2020

Please see www.bedfordshireccq.nhs.uk for the most recent list of Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group GP surgeries