

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:	Individual Grant	Household Grant
	Amount:	Up to £275	Up to £375
	Max per year:	One	One
	When can I reapply	12 months after awarded or declined	12 months after awarded or declined
	Timescales:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application deadline - Assessment - Response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By 4.30pm on 15th of month ** - Monthly panel - At the end of month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By 4.30pm on 15th of month ** - Monthly panel - At the end of 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. For applications to go to panel in December, they must be received by Carers in Bedfordshire by 4:30pm on the 7th December.</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, it's possible 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?	Carers may re-apply for a grant 12 months from their when last grant application was awarded, if they still meet the criteria.
How many people per family can apply?	We can only accept one application per year. This can be one Individual grant application of up to £275 or one Household grant application for multiple carers in a household, for up to £375.

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?

We can accept change of use requests. Please email grants@carersinbeds.org.uk informing us what you would like to change the use of your grant to and a short explanation about how the change will help your health and wellbeing and your role as a carer. In some circumstances, we may need to take it to the next panel meeting.

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?

1. We will ask you to send us your bank details. Once we receive them, we aim to make the payment within the next 10 working days. We then ask that you send us receipts to show that you have used the funds for what you were awarded. You have 12 months from the date of your award to send us the receipts. If we do not receive receipts, it may affect your ability to apply again.
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.* 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.
3. For carers applying for counselling with Carers in Bedfordshire or a course with Outside-iN, we can also pay them directly. Please let them know that you have been awarded a Carers Grant for their service and they will invoice us.

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