



## Grants & Funding

If you have an illness or disability, are struggling financially and have an unexpected expense, emergency situation or need a specific item, it can sometimes be possible to apply for a grant or funding from either a charitable organisation or government body. While all funders have their own criteria and each case is looked at on an individual basis, most will state that you cannot apply for funding to pay for something to which you may have a legal entitlement, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A good example of this is the mobility element of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for someone who has difficulties getting around. If you qualified for this you would be expected to use this money towards the cost of a mobility scooter or car.

Some sources of funding are listed below. If you need further information or assistance to access these funds, call us on **01736 759500**.

### Crisis and Care Awards

Crisis and Care Awards are discretionary, are administered by Cornwall Council and can only be accessed if you meet certain criteria:

#### Who can apply for a Crisis Award?

To apply you must:

- Be 16 or over
- Be in an emergency or disaster situation. An emergency is where you need immediate help to avoid serious damage or risk to your or your family's health and safety due to unexpected or unplanned events. A disaster could include a fire or flood.
- Be able to prove you need help
- Live in Cornwall and have a local connection
- Need money to meet immediate short term needs for you or your family
- Need help to pay rent in advance for a property the Council doesn't own (this is for some people who have been in residential or institutional accommodation).

You can't apply for a crisis award if you:

- Have had more than £1,500 through the scheme in the last 12 months
- Have already had financial help from somewhere else (unless it wasn't enough to meet your immediate need)
- Are in hospital or a care home
- Are a prisoner
- Aren't a UK resident
- Can't receive jobseeker's allowance due to a dispute.

### **Who can apply for a Care Award?**

To apply you must:

- Live in Cornwall or have a local connection
- Be able to prove you need help and allow the council to carry out checks if needed
- Receive a qualifying benefit, including income support, income based jobseeker's allowance, pension credit or income related employment and support allowance
- Have less than £1,500.

You must also show you need the award to:

- Help you, or someone in your family, or someone you care for, to leave a care home or residential accommodation to return to live in the community
- Help you, or someone in your family, or someone you care for, to remain in the community rather than move into a care home or residential accommodation
- Help you to set up home in the community and have a more settled way of life
- Allow you, or your partner, to care for a prisoner or young offender on temporary release
- Help you, or someone in your family, with travel costs to visit someone who is ill, attend a relative's funeral or help with a family crisis.

You can't apply for a care award if you:

- Can't receive jobseeker's allowance
- Are subject to immigration control
- Aren't a UK resident.

### **How much help can I get?**

The council can give crisis and care awards of up to £1,500. The amount of help you will receive will depend on your circumstances.

The council will usually buy the goods and services you need and have them sent to you. The things provided may not be new, but they will meet current safety rules. In rare cases you may be provided with a voucher that you can exchange for money at the post office.

## How to apply

Ring the Cornwall Council benefits advice line on 0300 1234 121 and choose option 2, they will give you an appointment for an advisor to ring you back to complete the claim, or you can email: [discretionaryaward@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:discretionaryaward@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Jobcentre Plus Flexible Support Fund

The Flexible Support Fund (FSF) aims to give support, including training, to help you start or move towards finding work. It can also be used to cover costs for goods and services that include:

- travel to interviews
- childcare
- tools
- clothing and uniforms to start work.

The FSF is discretionary, which means that there is no automatic right to receive support. There is no set limit on the amount of money that may be paid, but there may be a limit to the award that you receive depending on where you live.

Each FSF award is considered individually. Advisers must make sure that all awards are suitable and are good value for money. When considering an award the adviser must take into account other possible sources of funding, for example whether you could buy the items yourself.

## How to Apply

Speak to your local Jobcentre Plus adviser or call us for advice: 01736 759500

## Access to Work Scheme

An Access to Work grant can pay for practical support if you have a disability, health or mental health condition to help you start working, stay in work, move into self-employment or start a business.

How much you get depends on your circumstances. The money doesn't have to be paid back and will not affect your other benefits.

## What can funding be used for?

Access to Work money can be used for things like:

- adaptations to the equipment you use
- special equipment
- fares to work if you can't use public transport
- a support worker or job coach to help you in your workplace
- a support service if you have a mental health condition and you're absent from work or finding it difficult to work
- disability awareness training for your colleagues
- a communicator at a job interview
- the cost of moving your equipment if you change location or job.

## **Am I Eligible?**

The rules around Access to Work are complex so call us on 01736 759500 or you can contact Access to Work direct to find out more:

[atwosu.london@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:atwosu.london@dwp.gov.uk)

Tel: 0800 121 7479

Textphone: 0800 121 7579

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

## **Disabled Facility Grant**

You could get a grant from your council if you're disabled and need to make changes to your home, for example to: widen doors and install ramps, improve access to rooms and facilities, e.g. stair lifts or a downstairs bathroom, provide a heating system suitable for your needs, adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use. The process is complex and there are criteria that have to be met. To find out more call us on 01736 759500 or visit:

[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

## **Other Sources of Funding**

Pirate Trust - This trust supports people in need living within the Pirate FM 102 broadcast area. Preference is given to people with special needs and one-off and recurrent grants can be made, mainly towards disability equipment:

<https://www.piratefm.co.uk/piratetrust/>

Turn2us - Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services. You can put your details into the grant finder and the site will show you the funds to which you may be able to apply.

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Prince's Trust - Do you have an idea but can't get funding? Need advice and support? The Prince's Trust can support individuals, groups and established youth organisations. The Trust's specific interest is in helping overcome disadvantage and in promoting special talent. The fund concentrates on young people in the 14-30 year age range. Application forms can be downloaded from the website or you can contact them on 0800 842 842

<https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/>

Family Fund - This fund provides grants for a wide range of items, such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing and computers. Apply online or contact us for more information:

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/faqs/how-do-we-apply>

## Professions

If you were a professional in certain areas, such as the armed forces or teaching for example, you may be able to apply for funds established to support ex-employees experiencing hardship. Some larger organisations, such as BT, Shell, British Rail, BBC, and in Cornwall, the Marconi Trust, St Austell Brewery, Holman's, Pirate Trust have similar schemes, so it's always worth establishing whether you might be eligible for support. If you can't find contact details for funders online, do call us on **01736 759500**

## Cornwall Community Foundation

If you are in contact with a support worker, such as social worker, adviser or other, they may be able to apply for funding on your behalf. This is particularly true of the Community Foundation, which administers a range of funds and small grants. You can see which funds are available and how to apply here:

<https://www.cornwallcommunityfoundation.com/introduction-to-grants/>

The Glasspool Trust is another fund that accepts applications via professionals working on behalf of individuals, such as advice agencies. Their aim is to provide timely, life-enhancing support to people in need, such as white goods, bedding, clothing etc. Applicants must have exhausted all other statutory sources of funding and welfare entitlements. There is approximately a 3 week turnaround on applications.

<http://www.glasspool.org.uk/>

This is not an exhaustive list, so please call us if you need any further help or information:

Tel: 01736 759500

[advice@disabilitycornwall.org.uk](mailto:advice@disabilitycornwall.org.uk)

[www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk](http://www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk)