

SEND

Grants, Benefits, Discounts and Carer Support Charities

Please note that no funding is automatically guaranteed and that each charity or government agency will have its own set of criteria for funding.

UK Benefits for Disabled Children



Disability Living Allowance (DLA). DLA is a non means tested benefit available to children under the age of 16. In order to qualify, your child requires more care than a child of their age would typically require due to a medical or developmental condition. A diagnosis is not required to claim, but the more evidence that is provided the greater the chance of a claim being successful.

<https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children/eligibility>

In Scotland Child Disability Payment is applied for instead of DLA.

<https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>

DLA is divided into two components, care and mobility with the mobility component limited to children aged three and over. For those aged under three years with the highest needs, a discretionary grant from the Family Fund Motability Scheme may be available. <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/mobilitysupport>

2024 to 2025 weekly rates		
	Care	Mobility
Lower	£28.70	£28.70
Middle	£72.65	Not applicaple
Higher	£108.55	£75.75

The application form is long but worthwhile as, not only does the DLA award depend on it, but a successful DLA award could also result in the claimant being entitled to Carers Allowance. Rewards are backdated to the date the date that the application was received and an initial lump sum payment for the waiting period.

It is important to understand the criteria fully and include as much information and supporting evidence in the application as possible. It can be helpful to use the DLA wording on eligibility as much as possible when completing the application and to keep a copy of the application form.

When making a claim, it is useful to refer to the Decision Makers Guide (DMG Chapter 61):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092571/dmgch61.pdf

It may also be useful to look at the child's condition in the 'Medical Guidance for DLA and AA Decision Makers (child cases): Staff Guide':

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054301/a-z-child-medical-conditions.pdf

This site may also be useful: <https://cerebra.org.uk/download/disability-living-allowance-dla-vc/>

If a claim is unsuccessful or a lower award is made, the claimant can seek a Mandatory Reconsideration within one month of the date on the decision letter. Further evidence can be submitted. If the Mandatory Reconsideration is unsuccessful, an application can be made to the Social Security and Child Support Tribunal. The Tribunal is heard by an independent judge in person.

DLA, Carers Allowance and Universal Credit Individuals receiving Universal Credit, and claiming DLA for a child or Carers Allowance will have their Universal Credit reduced by an amount equal to the Allowance. However, they will be eligible for an extra £156.11 per month if the child is disabled or £487.58 if severely disabled.

If the claimant cares for someone who receives a health or disability benefit for at least 35 hours a week, they will receive an extra monthly payment of £198.31

<https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/effect-on-other-benefits>

DLA helpline: [0800 121 4600](tel:08001214600) or Textphone: [0800 121 4523](tel:08001214523)

Relay UK (those who cannot hear or speak on the phone): [18001](tel:18001) then [0800 121 4600](tel:08001214600)

British Sign Language video relay: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oELNMfAvDxw

Disabled Facilities grant

Individuals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can apply for a grant from their council if they are disabled and need to make changes to their home. Grants are means tested for individuals but not for landlords. However, the council may ask for the property to be let to another disabled person within five years.

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants>

Carers Allowance



Carers allowance is a benefit available to those who care for someone for at least 35 hours a week. It is only payable for one individual claimant and does not increase if more than one person is cared for. The 2024 rate is £81.90 a week. To be eligible for carers allowance a parent must care for a child in receipt of middle or highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance, for at least 35 hours a week.

In order to claim, individuals must also be 16 or over; have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least two of the last three years (this does not apply for refugees or those with humanitarian protection status); normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or live abroad as a member of the armed forces; not be in full-time education or studying for 21 hours a week or more and earn £151 or less a week after tax, National Insurance and expenses.

www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/eligibility

General enquiries: [0800 731 0297](tel:08007310297) or Textphone: [0800 731 0317](tel:08007310317)

Relay UK (those who cannot hear or speak on the phone): [18001](tel:18001) then [0800 731 0297](tel:08007310297)

British Sign Language video relay service:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oELNMfAvDxw

Motability Scheme



Motability is a leasing scheme at favourable rates for those who receive higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The lease is inclusive of insurance, servicing, maintenance, breakdown cover, tyre replacement and windscreen repairs. The scheme offers cars, wheelchair accessible vehicles, scooters and electric wheelchairs.

Payments are deducted from the mobility component of DLA. Some cars on the scheme require a deposit to be paid, however, grants may be available to help with this for people on means tested benefits. Grants are also available for vehicle adaptations and other costs of using the scheme.

<https://www.motability.co.uk/>

<https://www.motabilityfoundation.org.uk/charitable-grants/>

Family Fund



Family Fund is a charity offering grants for short breaks, essential items and services to low-income families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.

To be able to apply for a grant, the child must have a high level of additional support needs arising from a long-term disabling condition or a serious or life limiting illness and the parent must be in receipt of a means tested benefit. The child's needs must be in at least three areas of personal Care, access to social activities, education, communication, supervision, medical treatment and physical environment.

www.familyfund.org.uk/grants/are-we-eligible/

Able Kidz



Able Kidz helps to fund the cost of learning aids for children with disabilities all over the UK, both on an individual basis and for use in schools and playgroups.

To apply, Able Kidz requires a letter outlining what is required and its cost, the child's circumstances and how the equipment will support the child and a letter of support from a teacher or educational professional (this can be an educational psychologist, a social-worker if you child has social-care element within an EHCP, a tutor or instructor. The letter should be on formal letterhead or from a professional email address. It should include an outline of the educational difficulty and how the item being applied for might help the child overcome this difficulty. Proof of medical diagnosis is insufficient without the letter of support.

Telephone 0300 365 4102 or email: info@ablekidz.org to discuss your requirements before making an application.

30 years
2022



AFK Charity

AFK supplies specialist mobility equipment that is not available on the NHS for children and young people up to their 25 birthday. This includes wheelchairs, specialist trikes, sports wheelchairs, beach wheelchairs, buggies, walkers, mobile hoists, power packs (to add power to a manual wheelchair), car seats and harnesses. The charity can also offer help and support with life and work skills. The charity cannot fund static equipment, vehicles or building work.

Telephone 020 8347 8111 or email mobilityservices@afkcharity.org

Alex TLC

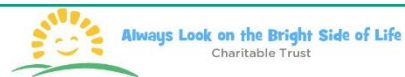


Alex TLC supports those living with a leukodystrophy through practical and emotional support and information.

The charity provides means tested grants to help access care, equipment or therapy not available through statutory services, including support during Bone Marrow Transplant or Gene Therapy.

Application is through a form available at: <https://alextlc.org/how-we-support-you/grant-programme/>

Always Look on The Bright Side Of Life



This grant providing charitable trust is not currently accepting individual grant applications but is funding projects administered to individual beneficiaries by other charities, CICs, and non-profit organisations.

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

AT Society



The A-T Society supports people living with the disabling and life-limiting condition ataxia-telangiectasia and funds research to find a cure.

The A-T Society can offer financial help to people with A-T through their Support Grants System. The charity can help with grants for a wide range of needs which benefit the person with A-T including equipment, holidays, respite care, specialist furniture, trikes, scooters, transport, therapy and courses.

Telephone 01582 760733, email: <https://atsociety.org.uk/how-we-can-help/support-grants/>

Ataxia



Ataxia provides information and support for people living with Ataxia (an umbrella term for a group of neurological disorders that affect balance, coordination and speech).

Ataxia supports those with the condition to access grants from charities including:

Barchester's Charitable Foundation: distributes over £150,000 per year to individuals and small community groups or charities for mobility equipment to support over 18 year olds who have physical disabilities, learning disabilities or mental health problems.

Florence Nightingale Aid in Sickness Trust: provides funding toward equipment to support needs and medical equipment for children and adults affected by a disability or long-term illness.

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

Telephone 0800 995 6037, email: helpline@ataxia.org.uk



BIRKDALE TRUST FOR HEARING IMPAIRED LTD

Birkdale Trust

The Birkdale Trust for The Hearing Impaired makes grants to hearing impaired young people up to their mid twenty and to organisations. The grants can be used in various ways but the trust favours application to support education.

<http://www.grantsforthe deaf.co.uk/>



Boparan Charitable Trust

The Boparan Charitable Trust provides funding to support children with disabilities, life-limiting illnesses and those who are in extreme poverty across the UK. The grants can fund specialist equipment such as wheelchairs, trikes, sensory toys not available on the NHS and treatments such as a speech and language therapy and behavioural therapy.

Application is via an online form and an independent supplier quote and letter of support must be provided.

<https://www.theboparancharitabletrust.com/Apply>



British Wireless for The Blind Fund

This charity gifts radios for free and for life to people living with sight loss in the greatest financial need. Recipients must be UK resident, living with sight loss and must either be in receipt of Receives Personal Independent, Attendance Allowance, or Adult Disability Payment, or in receipt of means tested benefits.

<https://blind.org.uk/referrals/>

Telephone: 01622 754757, email: sarahhj@blind.org.uk

Buttercup Children's Trust



Buttercup Children's Trust helps seriously ill children and their families to overcome the pressures of dealing with disabilities and life hindering illnesses. The charity can help with such things as vital medical equipment, vital sensory equipment in addition to travel costs and respite. The charity also provides support and advice.

The trustees will consider all grant applications which they believe will improve the quality of life of a child. Either download the online form or email or telephone to request a form by post.

www.buttercupchildrenstrust.org.uk/

Telephone: 01274 200 859 or email: trustees@buttercupchildrenstrust.org.uk

Buttle UK



Buttle UK provides support designed to improve emotional, educational and social outcomes through its Chances for Children grants and, for some children whose home environment is disruptive and chaotic, grants can be made which allow them to go to boarding school.

The charity offers grants up to £2000 to fund items and activities to support learning and development such as laptops, books, 12 months of broadband, educational toys, tuition, clothing, social and leisure activities and household items not available from publicly funded sources.

<https://buttleuk.org/apply-for-a-grant/how-can-buttle-help-me/>

Caudwell Children's Charity



Caudwell children's charity offers autism assessments, occupational therapy assessments and sensory packs. The charity funds up to 80% of the cost for families with a household income of under £45,000.

The charity can also provide 80% of the cost of funding life-changing equipment such as therapy tricycles, sensory equipment, sports equipment, car seats, car harnesses, buggies and powered wheelchairs for children with a wide range of disabilities or chronic conditions.

www.caudwellchildren.com/ Telephone 0345 300 1348

Cheyne Charity



Cheyne charity provides support for children and young adults, families and institutions affected by Cerebral Palsy through the provision of essential equipment and support services. Grants are available for equipment, therapy and electronic aids. Initial application is through the contact for:

<https://www.cheynecharity.org/contact>

Applicants will be asked to provide a covering letter describing the needs and the service or equipment required, supporting documentation from one or more professionals, details of the amount requested and the supplier.

www.cheynecharity.org/contact

Children's Heart Foundation



The Children's Heart Federation helps children with heart defects and their families by providing information and advice. CHF is currently unable to provide family grants but may provide INR machines for children with heart conditions when they are not supplied by the NHS.

<https://chfed.org.uk/how-we-help/equipment/>

Telephone: 0300 561 0065 or email: info@chfed.org.uk

Children Today



Children Today provides specialised equipment to children and young people up to age 25. The applicant must be in receipt of Disability Living allowance. Applications must be supported by a professional letter.

<https://www.childrentoday.org.uk/apply-now/>

Telephone: 01244 335622

Communication Matters



Communication Matters supports people of all ages who find it difficult to communicate because they have little or no clear speech. The charity provides small grants of up to £500 toward communication equipment.

Applicants must be members of Communication Matters.

<https://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/what-we-do/cm-grants/>

Computers for Kids



Computers for Kids provides refurbished devices such as laptops, mobile phones, tablets and PCs to support children.

Education Otherwise is a recognised referrer for the charity. Referrals must in other cases be through a school or local authority. There is high demand and a long wait.

<https://computersforkids.org.uk/request-help/>

Crackerjacks Children's Trust



Crackerjacks Children's Trust provides grants for specialist equipment, sensory toys, and respite breaks for children with disabilities.

Applications are by handwritten letter accompanied by two quotes and a letter of support. Applications are considered up to £700 and can take up to three months to be assessed. <https://www.crackerjacks.org.uk/downloads>

<https://www.crackerjacks.org.uk/> Telephone: 0300 124 0122

Cystic Fibrosis Trust



The Cystic Fibrosis trust supports people living with Cystic Fibrosis.

The charity provides a range of welfare grants to help in times of financial need. These include grants for emergencies, transplant assessments, health and wellbeing, holidays and breaks, home care, education and prescription pre-payment certificates.

<https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/> Telephone: 0300 373 1000 or 020 3795 2184

Dickie Bird Foundation



The Dickie Bird Foundation supports young people under 16 years of age to participate, to the best of their ability, in the sport of their choice.

Grants provided by The Foundation are limited to no more than £500 per individual. Applications are in writing to: The Dickie Bird Foundation, WE Cowley, 3 The Tower, Tower Drive, Arthington Lane, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Otley, LS21 1NQ. TEL: 07503 641457

Dravet Syndrome UK



Dravet Syndrome UK is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by Dravet Syndrome (a severe form of Epilepsy) through support, education and medical research.

The charity can provide non-means tested grants for seizure monitors and fund an annual weekend away for families at Centre Parcs.

Applicants must be registered with the charity and supply a letter confirming diagnosis if applying for a monitor. Grants toward Centre Parcs are for a set sum.

<https://www.dravet.org.uk/apply-for-grants/> Telephone: 01246 912 421

Glasspool Charity Trust



Glasspool Charity trusts provides grants through its Frontline Fund. Grants are only available through the charity's partner organisations and are to alleviate hardship.

<https://www.glasspool.org.uk/grants/glasspool-grants>

Independence At Home



Independence At Home provides grants to people of all ages who have a physical or learning disability or long-term illness and who are in financial need. Grants are made toward the cost of improving independence, comfort, safety and quality of life at home. Referrals must be made through a third party such as a medical professional, social worker, charity professional providing support and advice, Citizens Advice worker or working with a housing association or repair organisation.

For more information, please see: <https://independenceathome.org.uk/how-to-apply>

Lifeline4Kids



Lifeline 4 Kids provides equipment to help improve the quality of life for children with disabilities and special needs aged up to 18 years. Grant applications for iPads come with strict criteria.

<http://www.lifeline4kids.org/application/>

Linking Help With Hope



Linking Help With Hope provides grants of up to £250 to disabled people and those caring for disabled people who are in receipt of means tested benefits and who have exhausted all other funding sources including statutory funding, occupational, local and specialist charities. Grants are made for toward essential household items and specialist equipment not available from statutory agencies. The charity can also provide ongoing financial assistance in some circumstances.

Applications must be submitted by a professional agency such as social services, health services, a housing association, tenancy support agency, carer's centre, Citizen's advice or a registered charity

<https://lhh.org.uk/apply-for-assistance/>

National Autistic Society



The National Autistic Society provides diagnostic services. A referral can be made via a GP who may commission a referral through the NHS by making a case to your local Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). This is a specific pathway and not part of Patient Choice. Referrals can also be made by a local authority which may commission and fund and assessment in specific circumstances.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/autism-training-and-best-practice/diagnostic-services>

Tourettes Action



Tourettes Action awards grants of up to £500 for equipment which supports people with Tourettes in their day-to-day life. Grants can fund equipment such as instruments for people whose tics reduce when playing music, or beds for people whose tics are so violent that normal beds break.

Application is via a form sent by post to Tourettes Action Grants, The Meads Business Centre, 19 Kingsmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7SR.

<https://www.tourettes-action.org.uk/79-ta-grants.html>

<https://www.tourettes-action.org.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/TourettesAction>

Carefree



Carefree provides free, short breaks to full time carers (30+ hours a week) aged over 18. The accommodation is free of charge, but the applicant is responsible for all other costs. There is a £33 administration fee and the carer must be able to arrange for interim care whilst away.

<https://carefreespace.org/>

<https://carefreespace.org/take-a-break/>

Carers Trust



Carers Trust provide grant as part of a package of support through local Carers Trust Network Partners.

<https://carers.org/money-and-benefits/intro>

Caring Cancer Trust



Caring Cancer Trust provides special Youth2Go Healing Holidays of Adventure and Create2Go Art and Music workshops for Children recovering from Cancer.

Email: support@caringcancertrust.com

<https://stopcancer.health/about/>

CS Disabled Holidays



CS Disabled Holidays provide financial help to fund up to 50% of the cost of holidays up to a maximum of £2,000, for people living with severe physical disability due to neurological or neuromuscular disorders.

Applicants must have also sought assistance from relevant statutory sources and disease-specific charities for the balance.

<https://www.csdisabledholidays.co.uk/apply/choose-application>

Dream Makers



Dream Makers provides holidays for disabled children in specially designed, disabled accessible holiday homes.

<https://dreammakerschildrenscharity.com/contact-us/>

<https://dreammakerschildrenscharity.com/> Telephone: 07816 124889

Happy Days Children's Charity



Happy Days Children's Charity helps families and groups by organising and funding special days and holidays such as trips to the seaside, theatres, zoos, museums, outdoor activity centres, sporting events and other educational and cultural activities for children in the UK living with mental, physical and emotional difficulties.

Applications can be made for children with special educational needs, who have been victims of abuse or who have a life-limiting condition aged 3-17

<https://www.happydayscharity.org/applications> Telephone: 01462 530710

Kids Out



Kids Out provides days out, toys, books and sensory room experiences for disabled and disadvantaged children. In collaboration with Women's Aid Federation refuge and over 100 independent refuges, KidsOut supports approximately 20,000 children a year who, with their mothers, have fled domestic violence to seek safety in refuges and safe houses including by providing food vouchers and brand new toys and games.

<https://kidsout.org.uk/fun-days/>

info@kidsout.org.uk Telephone: 01525 385252.

Merlin's Magic Wand



Merlin's Magic Wand is the children's charity partner of Merlin Entertainments. The charity provides Magical Days Out for children who are facing challenging circumstances. Applications can be made by parents or organisations and allow families to visit their chosen Merlin attraction for free.

<https://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/apply-1/>

National Benevolent Charity



The National Benevolent Charity provides financial support to people experiencing poverty at a time of crisis. Their average grant is £360 and they will consider applications from those who have a physical or mental health condition or disability or who have young children or are caring for a relative.

Grants can be made toward household goods, food, clothing, priority debts, training or work tools. Applicants will require a letter of support from a professional person such as a Citizens Advice advisor, housing officer, charity worker, money advisor, GP or other professional person.

<https://www.natben.org.uk/grants-for-individuals>

Lightning



The secure Lightning Reach portal allows you to find and apply for support from multiple providers, quickly and easily.

<https://www.lightningreach.org/application-portal>

Turn 2 Us



Turn2us provides practical help to people who are struggling financially. The charity provides information which helps individuals access welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help including through a grants search facility.

<https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/get-support/apply-for-grants>

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

Access to Work

Access To Work is a UK government programme that grants up to £62,900 per annum to support people with a physical or mental health condition or disability to take up or stay at work.

Applicants must be 16 or over, in paid work (or be about to start or return to paid work in the next 12 weeks). Grants can be made to fund specialist equipment and assistive software; support workers, such as a BSL interpreter, a job coach or a travel buddy; costs of travelling to work, if you cannot use public transport; adaptations to your vehicle in order that you can get to work or physical changes to your workplace. Your workplace can include your home if you work from there some or all of the time.

It does not matter how much you earn. If you get an Access to Work grant, it will not affect any other benefits you get and you will not have to pay it back. However, you or your employer may need to pay some costs up front and claim them back later.

<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>



EDUCATION OTHERWISE

THE Home Education Charity