



Registered Charity no. 1085491

Local offices:

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01442 253344 – Hemel Hempstead
01462 456660 – Hitchin

contact@carersinherts.org.uk
www.carersinherts.org.uk

Factsheet G7 How to access grants and funding

If you do not have access to the internet and you require information to be found there, then do contact us at *Carers in Hertfordshire* and we will run off a copy for you.

Benefits

You and the person you care for may be entitled to benefits, tax credits or pension credit. To arrange a benefits check, contact us or visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau. To find your local branch call 020 7833 2181 or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk

The Social Fund

This is administered by Jobcentre Plus, and provides discretionary lump sum payments, grants and loans to people on certain other benefits. You may be able to get help from the Social Fund for important costs that are hard to pay for out of your regular income through one or more of the following schemes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Care Grant• Budgeting Loan• Crisis Loan• Sure Start Maternity Grant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funeral Payment• Cold Weather Payment• Winter Fuel Payment |
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To check your eligibility visit www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or contact the Benefit Enquiry Line - freephone 0800 88 22 00 www.adviceguide.org.uk also has useful information

Charities, Trusts and Benevolent Funds

Many national and local funds are linked to particular trades and professions or serve people with a specific condition or disability. The help offered could extend from financial assistance to providing sheltered housing, residential accommodation, help or care at home, special equipment or counselling. Grants may be awarded for a wide variety of purposes eg to pay towards an appliance or piece of furniture; a holiday or day out; a course or training; equipment, aids or adaptations; driving lessons; decorating or utility bills.

All charities have eligibility criteria that must be met for people to qualify for help from their trusts and funds. To find out which could apply to you, contact The Association of Charity Officers (ACO). They can search their database for the charities whose criteria you meet and who would consider funding the items/services you need, and tell you how to apply. Contact their helpline: 01707 651777 or visit www.aco.uk.net

Sometimes an application has to come through a health or social care professional eg your social worker, health visitor, district nurse. If this presents difficulties contact us at *Carers in Hertfordshire* for guidance.

'A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need' is a useful book, available through the library service, listing all the charities and benevolent funds in the UK. It includes details of eligibility criteria, what they will make grants for, and how to apply. Call the library service on 01438 737333 to ask for it to be sent to your local library.

*The information contained on this sheet is correct at the time of issue.
Carers in Hertfordshire takes no responsibility for any inaccuracy in facts supplied to them*

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Sometimes it is worth approaching local branches of charities for help:

- SSAFA is the national charity helping serving and ex-Service men, women and their families, in need. Services include companionship, financial help, welfare, short stay housing, family escort service and social work service. To find out how to contact your local branch officer, call 0845 1300 975 or visit www.ssafa.org.uk
- Lions Clubs International www.lions.org.uk sometimes provide financial help through their local branch offices. For more information, call 0845 833 9502.
- Hertfordshire Convalescent Trust is a local charity that can provide funding for holidays and days out, including convalescence, respite and breaks for carers. The trust can only help according to the funds they have available. For an application form call 01992 505886.
- The Hase Foundation is another local charity that provides grants for holidays and days out for carers and disabled people. Again, help can only be provided if funds are available. They normally look at requests in February for holidays later in the year. For an application form, contact *Carers in Hertfordshire* or ring 01442 212999.

Carers Grant

Hertfordshire County Council has some funds available for payments to help carers who are under pressure, but whose needs are not easily met through current services. Grants can be made following a carers assessment with a social worker which *Carers in Hertfordshire* can help to arrange if needed.

Help with Health Costs

Regular users of prescriptions can reduce the cost by buying a pre-payment certificate. If you are on a low income, you may also be entitled to other help with health costs. The Department of Health leaflet HC11 'Help with Health Costs' gives more information - order a copy on 0870 155 5455 or download from www.dh.gov.uk. The Health Costs Advice line (0845 850 1166) can also provide advice and guidance on your entitlements to free treatment or services.

Vehicle excise duty (car tax) exemption

Some disabled people and war pensioners don't have to pay vehicle excise duty (car tax) for a tax disc. If you care for a disabled person who does not drive, they can nominate you to drive the car for them instead and you will not have to pay car tax on the car. It is also possible that you may not have to pay VAT on necessary adaptations to your car (this may also extend to spare parts, accessories, and repair and maintenance). Visit www.direct.gov.uk for more information.

Visiting places of interest

Many places of interest, including museums, sports venues, National Trust properties and English Heritage sites, offer discounted or free admission to a companion accompanying a disabled person. The Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card is a national card for disabled people, which entitles the holder to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. Contact us at *Carers in Hertfordshire* for more information.