

Guidance Notes – Last Updated April 2023

- Welcome
- Eligibility
- How much can I apply for?
- How do I apply?
- How will decisions be made?
- How will I know if I have been successful?
- How will I be paid the funding?
- If I am unsuccessful what can I do?
- Is there anything else I need to do?
- I need more information, who do I contact?
- DETAILS - Time to Live - Short Breaks

Welcome

Carers Link East Dunbartonshire are fortunate to be able to provide a range of grants for local carers. The following information gives you details of available grants and how to apply.

Eligibility

Please note that all funds have their own criteria which we are required to meet as a condition of funding.

In general, ALL funds are prioritising carers in greatest need i.e. carers at risk of isolation, exclusion or disadvantage, whose caring role and lack of support impact on their:

- physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing AND/OR
- ability to balance the caring role with a life of their own AND/OR
- financial wellbeing and ability to afford basic necessities

For **ALL** funds:

- You need to be a carer living in East Dunbartonshire or caring for someone who lives in East Dunbartonshire.
- Previous recipients can reapply but if the fund is oversubscribed, **priority will be given to first time applicants.**

Please see the table on the next page for current information on grants available.

Fund Name	Until	Additional Eligibility	Used For	Amount
Oaktree Fund (Private Donor)	June 2023	Young carers and Young Adult Carers aged 25 or under	Relief & support e.g. School uniform, printers, laptops, University books & supplies, bedding. Also used for counselling sessions.	No lower limit but guidance max of £200. Discretionary ability to provide more depending on circumstances.
Time to Live (Scottish Gov't via Shared Care Scotland)	Until March 2024	Open to all carers	Anything that might give carers and young carers a chance to have some time to themselves in a busy day. Examples include toys, laptops, bikes, exercise equipment, breaks away, garden sheds (bolt holes), garden furniture, TV subscriptions, hobbies etc See Page 4 for details	No lower limit but guidance max of £200 for home activities and £300 - £400 for breaks away from home. Discretionary ability to provide more depending on circumstances.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for a grant of as little as £50 or up to £200, however for breaks away from home or in extreme circumstances, a higher amount may be considered by the panel.

How do I apply?

You can either speak to the Carer Grants Co-ordinator or fill in an application form available on the Carers Link website at <https://carerslink.org.uk/apply-for-funding/>

If you would like support to fill in the application form or cannot access the internet, please contact the office as Carers Link staff can help.

Please also note that it helps the panel if you fill in as much information as you can about your situation and what you are applying for. The Carer Grants Coordinator can help you with this.

The panel meets once a month, so applications should be reviewed within four weeks of being received.

It is not necessary for you to decide which fund to apply for. All grant applications use the same form and members of the Carers Link Management Team will decide which is the most appropriate fund depending on matching to criteria.

How will decisions be made?

For ALL applications:

- Your application will be passed to a panel (that is independent of Carers Link staff)
- The panel will make decisions by consensus
- The panel will make decisions based on the discussion with the Carer Grants Coordinator and/or statements you make in the application. They will also be provided with a history of previous grants received through Carers Link.
- Please note that Carers Link are **not** involved in the decision-making process for funds

How will I know if I have been granted break funding?

If you provide an email address in your application, you will be advised about the outcome of your application by email. If you do not have an email, then we will telephone you to advise you of the outcome.

How will I be paid the funding?

We will transfer the money into your bank or arrange the activity directly, for example, paying a supplier direct.

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If I am unsuccessful what can I do?

Unsuccessful applications may be carried over to a later Panel meeting if there were simply too many applications for the current fund. The Panel may also ask for more information to help them make a decision at a later date.

If you are unsuccessful, feedback will be provided and it may be that the Carer Grants Coordinator could help you better prepare your application and we would therefore encourage you to try again. If you were unsuccessful because you did not meet the criteria, then there is nothing that can be done.

Is there anything else I need to do?

We also ask you to provide us with receipts and fill out a short feedback form once you have used the grant funding.

I need more information about this. Who do I contact?

You can email enquiry@carerslink.org.uk or call 0800 975 2131

Time to Live - Short Breaks

The information in this section specifically relates to the Time to Live Grants via the Short Breaks Fund.



Time to Live grants are for fun, for relaxation - something that will give you a break. If you are looking for inspiration, Shared Care Scotland have pulled together some resources and activities that can help everyone have a little time out.

<https://www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk/resources/short-breaks-at-home/>

You can apply for a grant of as little as £50 or up to £200 to pay for an activity of your own choosing. This means that the breaks are very individual and personalised to each unique situation. You decide what you want to do! If you need help exploring this, then please contact the Carers Grant Coordinator by phone or email (valerie@carerslink.org.uk). There is a normal **upper limit of £200** for home activities and **£300 - £400** for breaks away from home. We **may**, however, in extreme circumstances, be able to consider a **slightly** higher amount.

Ideas from previous applicants have included traditional holiday stays in hotels, spas or caravans. Other ideas have been for something that you can enjoy at home. Popular ideas have ranged from Netflix/Disney Channel subscriptions, bikes, trampolines, pamper sessions, garden furniture,

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garden sheds (converted to a relaxing place to sit), musical instruments, classes/lessons... these are of course just examples.

We advise you to check any payment, cancellation and insurance terms with the provider and decide if these are acceptable to you before booking. If your arranged break is cancelled, please note that Carers Link will not be able to cover any financial losses you incur if your travel plans are disrupted. We will however be happy to discuss options with you such as alternative breaks that you can take with your funding.