

## Guidance Notes – Last Updated April 2024

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Carers Link East Dunbartonshire are fortunate to be able to provide a range of grants for local carers. Grants are funded by Scottish Government through Shared Care Scotland and a range of Trusts. The following information gives you details of available grants and how to apply.

## Eligibility

Each grant has its own criteria which we are required to meet as a condition of funding, however in general

- Funding for a short break is available to carers of all ages (a carer provides unpaid care to a family member, partner, relative or friend who needs help to manage a long-term condition, disability, physical or mental ill health or addiction).
- The carer must live in East Dunbartonshire area or care for someone who lives in the area.
- Only one funded break can be granted to individual carers (or multiple carers in the same family) in any 12-month period.
- Priority will be given to first time applicants.
- Grants should be used within 12 months of receipt. If you are unable to do this, please contact the Carer Grants Coordinator.

Carers Link have access to the following funds and will decide which grant is best suited for your needs.

- Time to Live grants open to all carers for a short break at home or away - [SEE MORE IDEAS HERE](#)
- Respite breaks are open to all carers subject to availability of donated breaks
- Oak Tree Trust grants are available to young carers and young adult carers aged 25 and under
- Hardship funding is open to all carers and is for unexpected expenses that carers face from time to time.

## How do I apply?

You can either

- speak to the Carer Grants Coordinator who can talk to you about what you are looking for and complete the application form on your behalf, or
- fill in an application form available on the Carers Link website at <https://carerslink.org.uk/apply-for-funding/>
- Carers interested in Respite should contact the Carer Grants Coordinator.

If you would prefer a paper copy of the application form, please contact the office and one will be sent to you.

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.

### What happens next?

All applications are assessed by an independent panel. The independent panel is made up of volunteers who have been carers or have an interest in the role of carers. The Carer Grants Coordinator provides support to the panel at the meetings.

The panel meets once at the beginning of each month, so applications should be reviewed within four weeks of being received.

Paperwork is provided to the panel that includes

- The applicant's name,
- Sections 1 and 2 'Please tell us about your caring role' and 'Please tell us how you will use your grant', and
- a history of previous grants received through Carers Link.

The panel makes a decision on the grant based on the criteria and guidance of individual grants and availability of funds.

The Carer Grants Co-ordinator will then email (unless a telephone call is requested by the carer) the outcome of the application.

- If successful, grant funding is usually paid directly into the carer's bank account within 5-7 working days
- If unsuccessful, the carer will be informed of the reason for this.
- If Carers Link are purchasing goods or services directly from the supplier, this will be discussed with the carer and appropriate arrangements made.

### Is there anything else I need to do?

Following the use of your grant, we ask you to send in receipts of your booking or purchase so we can retain these for auditing purposes.

It is important to the funders to know the difference that grants make to the lives of the carers therefore we will ask you to give feedback either by phone, by email or online. We will be in touch 3-4 months after receipt of your grant with more information.

Please contact [valerie@carerslink.org.uk](mailto:valerie@carerslink.org.uk) or phone the office if you have any questions.