



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**.

Household Support Fund

Cornwall Council has secured a further £4.5 million pounds from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This funding is to continue the Household Support Fund for a further 6 months. The fund will run from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024.

Some of the funding will be used to provide one-off cash payments to low-income households.

Payments are intended to help households struggling to afford;

- energy bills
- water bills
- food
- and wider essentials

These payments will be made automatically by the end of June 2024.
You do not need to apply.

Who will payments be made to?

- £80 to pensioners in receipt of pension credit
- £80 to adults assessed as requiring domiciliary care and receiving a financial contribution to the cost of the care from Cornwall Council
- £80 per child for families receiving Council Tax Support on 03 June 2024. If you are not currently in receipt of Council Tax Support but are on a low income and think you may qualify, you can get more information on our [Benefits and Support webpages](#).

You can also check to see if you are entitled to Council Tax Support and a wide range of other financial support through the [Government benefits calculator](#)

- £80 per child for families living in emergency accommodation on 3 June 2024. The placement into emergency accommodation must have been made by Cornwall Council's Housing Options service
- Extra help during school holidays is available through the [Time2Move Holiday Programme](#).

This offers fun physical activities, games and wider activities plus a meal for all children. Places are available free of charge to children receiving benefits-related Free School Meals.

You do not need to apply for the one off cash payments mentioned above.

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

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 certain means-tested benefits 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, income related employment and support allowance or maximum entitlement to Universal Credit.
- Have less than £1,500 in savings.

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 certain means-tested benefits
- 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 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

Alternatively, you can complete an online application for a Crisis and Care Award by going to

<https://secure.cornwall.gov.uk/selfservice/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Crisis And Care Application Form>

Universal Credit Advance Payment

If you do not have enough to live on while you wait for your first Universal Credit payment, you can ask for an [advance payment](#) after you've made a claim.

If you [got a sanction](#) and now cannot pay for rent, heating, or food, you can also ask for a hardship payment. You should [check if you are eligible](#).

You will need to pay this back. Your Universal Credit payments will be lower until it's repaid.

How to get an advance in an emergency

You might be able to get a Budgeting Advance to help with:

- emergency household costs such as replacing a broken cooker
- getting a job or staying in work
- funeral costs

You'll repay it through your regular Universal Credit payments - these will be lower until you pay it back. If you stop getting Universal Credit, you'll have to repay the money in another way.

How much you can borrow

What you get will depend on how much you need - you'll agree the amount with your work coach.

The smallest amount you can borrow is £100. You can get up to:

- £348 if you're single
- £464 if you're part of a couple
- £812 if you have children

Eligibility

To get a Budgeting Advance, you'll need to either:

- have been getting Universal Credit, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance or State Pension Credit for 6 months or more
- need the money to help you start a new job or stay in work

You will not be eligible if either: - you've earned more than £2,600 (£3,600 together for couples) in the past 6 months - you have not paid off any previous Budgeting Advance loans

How to apply

To apply, you can do any of the following:

- update your journal in your [Universal Credit account](#)
- [contact your nearest jobcentre](#)
- call the Universal Credit helpline

Universal Credit helpline

Telephone: 0800 328 5644

Textphone: 0800 328 1344

[Relay UK](#) (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 328 5644

British Sign Language (BSL) [video relay service](#) if you're on a computer - find out how to [use the service on mobile or tablet](#)

Welsh language: 0800 328 1744

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

[Find out about call charges](#)

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

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

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 11-30 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/>

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

Tel: 01736 759500

advice@dialcornwall.org.uk

www.disabilitycornwall.org.uk