

Carers Grant Criteria (please read this before applying)

Blue Sky Carers Support administer Carers Grants on behalf of NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to enable unpaid carers, who provide substantial care, to access a break, activity, service or training, to improve their health and wellbeing.

Who can apply?	✓ In order to apply, a carer must fulfil <u>ALL</u> of the following: If not your application will be rejected. ✓ Be registered with an NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group surgery (<i>please see page 4 to find out if your surgery is a member of NHS Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group</i>). ✓ Be a carer (including young/sibling carers aged 4 years and above), who provides substantial, unpaid care (excluding benefits) to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour. ✓ Be experiencing an impact on your health and/or wellbeing due to your caring role.		
What can I apply for?	A break, activity, item, service or training which will significantly improve your health or wellbeing as a carer. E.g. day trips, health treatments, training, gym membership, a holiday, driving lessons, household goods. You will need to demonstrate how it will improve your health and wellbeing.		
When is the deadline for applications?	Type:	Individual Grant	Household Grant (Multiple registered carers in a household)
	Individual Grant	Up to £275 + Blue Sky Card (optional – up to one 3-year membership)	Up to £375 + Blue Sky Card (optional – up to 3 1-year memberships)
	Max per year:	One	One
	When can I reapply	12 months after awarded or 6 months after declined	12 months after awarded or 6 months after declined
	Timescales:	Applications will close once a certain limit has been reached. Panel will sit at the end of each month (except December).	Applications will close once a certain limit has been reached. Panel will sit at the end of each month (except December).
How often can I apply?	You may reapply for a grant 12 months from when your previous grant application was awarded, or 6 months from when it was declined, if you still meet the criteria. If an application is declined, you will not be able to resubmit the same application again and must wait 6 months to reapply.		



How many people per family can apply?

We can only accept one application per household.

You can apply for either:

An Individual Grant of up to £275

And the option to add one 3-year Blue Sky Card membership

OR

A Household Grant (for multiple registered carers living at the same address) of up to £375

And the option to add up to three 1-year Blue Sky Card memberships

Frequently asked questions

Can I make changes to my grant request?

We can accept change of use requests. Please email grants@blueskycarerssupport.uk informing us that you would like to change the use of your grant to and a short explanation about how the change will help improve your health and wellbeing and your role as a carer. In some circumstances, we may need to take it to the next panel meeting.

Can I use the grant for an item that I have already purchased or a holiday I have already been on?

No, you cannot apply for a grant for an item you have already purchased or holiday that you have already been on. You can apply for a grant for ongoing services for example – driving lessons or an ongoing membership.

Blue Sky Carers Support will not be held responsible if you book your activity or event based on the assumption that you will be awarded.

How do the panel assess applications?

The panel assesses each application based on a number of factors.

- The carer's own health condition/health and wellbeing
- The level of substantial care that the carer provides
- The effectiveness of what the grant will be used for in relation to the carer's health and wellbeing.

The panel considers a very high number of applications each month and allocates the grant funds available based on how closely each application meets these criteria. The panel's decision is final.



If I am awarded a Grant, how will I access my grant fund?

1. We will ask you to send us your bank details. Once we receive them, we aim to make the payment within the next 10 working days. We then ask that you send us receipts to show that you have used the funds for what you were awarded. You have 12 months from the date of your award to send us the receipts. If we do not receive receipts, you will not be able to apply again.
2. We can pay companies directly for you if you are unable to pay upfront however, we cannot order any items that cost more than your grant award, even if you are going to pay the difference. In circumstances where you cannot pay for an item upfront, we can order products for you and get them delivered to an address of your choice i.e., we can order tickets for day trips, pay invoices for holidays or get items ordered and delivered.



NHS Bedfordshire GP Surgeries

Bedford (19 GP Practices)	Chiltern Vale (9 GP Practices)	Ivel Valley (8 GP Practices)	West Mid Bedfordshire (7 GP Practices)
• Dr Basra, Ashburnham Road Surgery (Amphill Road) • Caudwell Medical Centre • De Parys Group (Bedford and Bromham) • Dr Das, 12 Goldington Road Surgery • Goldington Avenue Surgery • Great Barford Surgery • Harrold Medical Centre • King Street Surgery, Kempston • Linden Road Surgery (Tyne Crescent Surgery and Bromham Surgery) • London Road Health Centre (Bedford and Elstow Medical Centre) • Priory Medical Practice • Putnoe Medical Centre • Riverfield Drive and Queens Park Surgery • Rothesay Surgery • Sharnbrook Surgery • Shortstown Surgery • St John's Surgery • The Village Medical Centre, Great Denham • Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre	• Caddington Surgery • Eastgate Surgery • Houghton Regis Medical Centre • Kingsbury Court Surgery • Kirby Road Surgery • Priory Gardens Surgery • Toddington Medical Centre • West Street Surgery • Wheatfield Road Surgery	• Arlesey Medical Centre • Saffron Health Partnership • Dr Cakebread and Partners, Shefford Health Centre • Ivel Medical Centre, Biggleswade • Larksfield Surgery, Stotfold • Greensands Medical Practice (Potton and Gamlingay) • Dr Collins and Partners, Lower Stondon Surgery • Dr Kapur and Partners, Sandy Health Centre	• Asplands Medical Centre and Woburn Surgery • Cranfield and Marston Surgery • Greensand Surgery, Amphill • Flitwick Surgery, Highlands • Dr Glaze and Partners, The Surgery, Barton-le-Clay and The Health Centre • Houghton Close Surgery • Oliver Street Surgery, Amphill and Oliver Street Branch Surgery, Wilstead • Marston Forest Healthcare
	Leighton Buzzard (3 GP Practices) • Bassett Road Surgery • Leighton Road Surgery • Salisbury House Surgery		

