

Care Leavers Grants – Guidance notes

Who can apply?

Care Leavers Grants in the region of £500 are available for individuals aged 16-25 who have previously been in care in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Applications should come from someone who supports the young person in a professional capacity, for example a Personal Advisor, social worker, or someone who works for a college or university. Grants will be made to the support worker, usually in the form of vouchers, and we expect the support worker to provide evidence of how they were spent (i.e. a receipt).

What will we fund?

We will fund anything which will improve the quality of a young person's life. This includes but is not limited to:

- household items such as furniture and white goods
- equipment for education, employment or training such as a computer
- funding for non-higher education learning such as driving lessons
- things that improve health and wellbeing like gym membership or a bicycle

The fund is not restricted to essentials, but you must be able to explain briefly why this item will improve the young person's quality of life.

What can't be funded?

We can't fund mobile phones or phone bills. We can't fund other bills or arrears.

We can't make a general payment to a young person for them to spend as they wish – we can only make grants via a support worker either in vouchers or a payment made to an organisational bank account for the support worker to use to pay for the item.

You should have made sure that there is not statutory support available to fund the item, for example via a Leaving Care Grant or an academic bursary. If the young person has received everything they are entitled to and needs extra help, then you can apply for this grant on their behalf.

How to make an application

Applications should come from a support worker on the behalf of the young person.

You can find the application form online here: <https://www.hertscf.org.uk/careleavers>

Please send completed application forms to us via email to Georgina.Bawden@hertscf.org.uk or by post to Care Leavers Fund, Hertfordshire Community Foundation, 2-4 Forum Place, Fiddlebridge Lane, Hatfield, AL10 0RN.

How long will it take to hear back from us?

Once we receive your application, we will assess it and reply to the support worker. We may ask for additional information.

We aim to let you know our decision within two weeks but during busy periods it may take up to a month.

What happens if you are successful?

If we approve your application, we will make a grant to the support worker. The support worker should assist the young person in purchasing the item(s) funded and return receipts or other proof of expenditure as soon as possible, or within 12 months at the latest.

Sometimes we will give vouchers for a company like Argos or Amazon via email to the support worker. In other instances we will make a payment via BACS or cheque made out to the organisation the support worker is from. We may also be able to make direct payments to companies on your behalf. We will not make out cheques to individuals or give out cash.

Who can you speak to for further help?

Support workers can discuss an application or ask questions about applying by calling Georgina Bawden, Grants Manager on 01707 251351 or emailing her on Georgina.bawden@hertsfc.org.uk. Please note Georgina usually works 9am to 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Unfortunately we cannot speak to young people directly about their application. If you are a young person with questions about applying, please speak to your support worker first and see if they are happy to apply on your behalf.

What other support is available?

We also make grants to individuals with young children via our Hertfordshire Community Grants. If the young person you are supporting is caring for children under the age of 16, and they need an emergency grant of up to £300 for children's bedding, or white goods, please consider applying to the [Hertfordshire Children's Fund](#). You can apply to both funds, but they have different criteria.