

Hertfordshire Care Leavers Grants – Guidance Notes for applicants

Care Leavers Grants in the region of £500 are available for individuals aged 18-25 who have previously been in care within the county of Hertfordshire.

This programme is intended to support care leavers by making small grants which contribute to:

- Improving wellbeing
- Improving access to education, skills and employment
- Helping with housing and independent living.

Who can apply?

Applications should come from an appropriate supporting professional working with the care team who knows the applicant for example:

- A Leaving Care Personal Advisor
- Social worker/social prescriber
- Educational Staff
- Anyone else from the care leavers support team

This supporting professional will be our point of contact throughout the grant period and will be required to accept and administer the grant on behalf of the young person, including providing evidence of spend at the end.

What can we fund?

We will consider funding anything which will improve the quality of the young person's life and is not part of current statutory provision.

Before applying, please ensure there is no 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.

Examples of things we can consider for funding includes but is not limited to:

- Things to improve health and wellbeing such as counselling, a gym membership, or a bicycle
- Items to help access education, skills or training such as study books, a laptop, or clothing for interviews
- Funding for non-higher education learning such vocational/non-statutory training courses



- Support for independent living - household items such as furniture and white goods, driving lessons, support with childcare costs where statutory payments fall short

This list does not include everything. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss the item you would like to apply for.

What can't be funded?

We cannot fund or make grants for:

- Mobile phones or phone contracts
- Bills, debts, or arrears
- Items or activities that fall under statutory obligation to be provided
- Reimbursing items/services already purchased by the young person or professional referrer before the date of any grant awarded

We can't make a general payment to a young person for them to spend as they wish – we can only make grants to the relevant supporting professional.

How to make an application

Applications should come from a supporting professional on the behalf of the young person.

You can find the application form on our website and within our Fundseeker Portal.

How long will it take to hear back from us?

Once we receive your application, we will assess it and liaise with the supporting professional. We may ask for additional information.

We aim to let you know our decision within 1-month, but during busy periods it may take longer.

What happens if you are successful?

If the application is successful, we will make a grant to the supporting professional to administer on behalf of the applicant.

Grants will usually come in the form of vouchers that are emailed to the supporting professional to make the purchase. If vouchers are not possible, a BACS payment may be made to the organisation the supporting professional is from to make the purchase. We may also be able to make direct payments to companies on your behalf via a valid invoice.



The supporting professional should assist the applicant in purchasing the item(s) funded and return receipts or other proof of expenditure as soon as possible, in line with our monitoring requirements.

Who can you speak to for further help?

Supporting professionals can discuss an application or ask questions by calling the grants team on 01707 251531 or emailing grants@hertscf.org.uk

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 supporting professional first and see if they are happy to apply on your behalf.

What other support is available for Care Leavers?

[Hertfordshire Children's Fund \(countywide\) / Bowley Fund \(Watford & Three Rivers\)](#)

We make small grants up to £500 to individuals with young children via the above grant funding programmes. If the young person you are supporting cares for children under the age of 18, and they are in need of essential white goods, baby items or children's beds/bedding, you can make a separate application to these programmes.

Please read the guidance notes before applying.

[The Ware Charities Fund](#)

We can make grants up to £500 for individuals and families living in Ware, Wareside and Thundridge to cover the costs of essential items.

Please read the guidance notes before applying.

[Ohana](#)

Ohana is a support group for young care-experienced parents which is free to attend. It is a place to meet other parents, join in activities and connect with local support services.

[Hertfordshire County Council Local Offer for Care Leavers](#)