

## Community Care Grants (CCG's) for Families

### Who can claim a Community Care Grant

The person claiming must be receiving Income Support, Income-Based Job-Seeker's Allowance or Pension Credit. CCG's are a much better option than loans as they do not have to be paid back. If you are working with families who have had loans in the past it is worth spending a few minutes explaining how a grant would have been a better alternative so that they are encouraged to apply for grants in the future.

### In what circumstances can a CCG be paid?

The CCG could be paid to help a family under pressure- perhaps through relationship breakdown or ill-health. The grant can also be paid in other circumstances such as helping family members remain in the community rather than go into care, or to help people leaving care, or as part of a resettlement programme. 'Care' in this context includes hospitals, care homes, foster care, hostels, prisons.

A CCG can also be made for travel expenses to visit someone who is ill, to ease a domestic crisis, or to visit a child who is with the other parent pending a court decision.

### What items can be claimed?

Examples are: furniture items, household appliances, minor repairs, redecoration materials, bedding, clothing, removal and storage charges, and connection charges. It is important to cost the items on the application form and to give full details of the items needed. If items need replacing explain how they are broken or in disrepair.

### What items cannot be claimed?

CCG's cannot be paid for housing costs, educational or training needs, medical needs, expenses related to court proceedings, and expenses where the local authority has a statutory duty to pay the cost.

### How much can be claimed?

There is no maximum amount that can be paid but savings over £500 (or £1000 if claimant is over 60) will reduce the amount of the CCG. The minimum that can be claimed is £30.00 unless the grant is for daily living expenses or travel expenses.

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### How do you apply?

A claim for a grant is made on form SF300. The form should be completed as fully as possible with a full description of the family members. The claim form is the main piece of evidence used in making a decision so the better it is completed the greater are the chances of a successful claim. Claim forms and envelopes are available from Welfare Rights offices. Decisions on the claim are made in Nottingham.

### What happens if the claim is refused

A review of the decision can be requested within 28 days. Welfare rights officers will accept referrals to assist with reviews of grant decisions in many cases so it is good practice to encourage your service-users to let you know the outcomes of their applications. If the application is refused it is important that your service-user informs you as soon as possible so you can discuss the situation with a welfare rights officer who could assist with requesting a review of the decision. At this point an approach can also be made to Charity Link.

### More Information

*Claim forms can be obtained from local Adult Social Care Service Offices, from the [Direct.gov.uk](http://Direct.gov.uk) website or by calling the DWP call centre on*

**0845 6088 543**

*Completed Forms should be sent to:*

*Jobcentre Plus*

*Nottingham BDC*

*Padge Road*

*Nottingham*

*NG80 8AT*

The Welfare Rights Service provide a range of guides and briefing notes available from Adult Social Care Offices and online on the intranet and internet at:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/>

Welfare Rights Officers are based at Social Care Service offices throughout the county. If you require further information about anything on this leaflet or some general advice concerning welfare rights issues contact your local office.