What is an Individual Carers Grant?

Grants are awarded specifically for the purpose of enabling you to 'switch off' from your caring responsibilities by taking a short break from caring.

The Grant scheme is intended to be flexible and to enable you to have a break that suits you. We welcome applications for holidays and trips, with or without the person you care for, or for personal development or the purchase of equipment to pursue hobbies/leisure activities. Carers have used their grant money ‘flexibly’ either towards a weekend away or day trips out, or for personal development, or to pursue a hobby - it is up to you to define.

Who is eligible?

The basic criteria for considering applications are:

1. You must be providing a regular and substantial amount of care to another person without payment due to their age, physical or mental illness, learning disability or addiction.
2. You must agree to be subject to a check by Cornwall Carers Service regarding the information you provide.
3. You must agree to use the funds that I am allocated to enable me to ‘switch off’ from my caring responsibilities and take a short break from caring.
4. You must not be applying for a grant to fund assessed charges for Cornwall County Council services or to fund services that should be provided by other statutory agencies (e.g. school trips, equipment and adaptations).

Please note that you cannot use the grant:

- Towards assessed charges for Cornwall County Council services.
- To fund services that should be provided by other statutory agencies e.g. educational school trips, equipment and adaptations.
- To fund activities or personal and intimate care exclusively for the person you care for.

How do I apply?

There is a simple (two sides of A4) application form to complete and return. To get a copy of the form, or if you need help reading or completing the form, please contact the Cornwall Carers Service.

The application form comprises a few necessary details about you, a set of 14 questions that help us calculate your grant award, and a statement about how you intend to meet the outcome of having a short break. The minimum award that you will receive is £100. The aim is that the form should take no more than 10 minutes to complete; guidance notes have been included if you get stuck on any of the questions.

What happens if I get a grant?

You will be contacted by us with the amount you are entitled to and will receive your payment within 10 working days of us receiving your application.