We provide grants

We provide grants to families raising disabled and seriously ill children aged 17 and under.

“The difference the Family Fund has made to us is amazing. I have more time to spend with my daughter and she has come on in leaps and bounds.”

www.familyfund.org.uk
What we do

Family Fund believes that all families raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people across the UK should have the same opportunities as others. We provide grants that support a family, improve their wellbeing, increase quality of life and ease many of the pressures they often face.

We are a registered charity and the UK’s largest provider of grants to families living on low incomes who are raising disabled or seriously ill children. Our grants bring practical and essential help that is often a lifeline to a family such as washing machines, fridges, bedding, specialist toys and much needed family breaks.

Last year, with the support of the four national governments of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Family Fund was able to provide over 88,000 grants and services to families across the UK.

“’We’ve been through a lot as a family over the past few years and having the support from Family Fund has really made a difference.”

Read more Find out more on our website: www.familyfund.org.uk
Who we help

With limited funding we try to help as many families as we can. We use our own eligibility criteria to ensure that we only help families in the most need.

If you can say ‘yes’ to the following, the Family Fund may be able to help you and your family:

- I am a permanent resident in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.
- I have current legal residency in the UK and have lived in the UK for the last 6 months, and I am eligible to work and apply for public funds.
- I am a parent or carer of a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 and under who lives at home.
- I am eligible for, and I can send evidence of one of the following tax credits or benefits; Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit.
- The grant I am asking for is related to the needs of my child, children or young person.

We are not able to help children and young people in local authority care, including those living with foster carers, or where a statutory agency has a responsibility to pay for the item needed.
How often can we help?

We will consider helping a family once every 12 months and will usually look at a grant application 12 months from the date of the last grant.

We do understand that sometimes an emergency or critical situation relating to a disabled child or young person can occur. If this happens we try to be flexible to the needs of families and may consider an early application, subject to available funding and the level of support previously given.

Family Fund’s support is discretionary and subject to available funding and so we may not have been able to help with every item requested. We can consider a new application from you 12 months from the date of your award letter.

You will need to continue to meet all the Fund’s eligibility criteria. We review all applications and from time to time may ask you to provide further supporting information.

“Family Fund helped Saichon’s family with a grant for a set of swings for the garden. Saichon has quadriplegic cerebral palsy, which affects her limbs but also impacts on her swallowing. She has epilepsy, and complex learning difficulties. It’s been great because it means we don’t have to travel in order for Saichon to be able to fulfil her sensory needs.”
Depending what you have asked for, we will award your grant in a number of different ways. We work in partnership with a range of providers who help us to make our funding go further and help us to evidence that the grant awarded is used for the purpose it is given.

We may provide you with:

- A payment card for a request for an appliance, clothing, furniture, home entertainment and leisure items.
- A product delivered to your home direct from a supplier for computers and trampolines. In Northern Ireland this will include appliances and home entertainment.
- A direct payment or voucher from a supplier towards a family break.

In circumstances where we do not have a supplier partnership we may look at an alternative. This is at our discretion and is subject to receipts being received after the award.
What we help with

We will look at a grant request that relates to the needs or wellbeing of a disabled child, young person and their family. Please think about this when completing your application form.

“There are things that Bethany can’t do and places she can’t go because she gets tired or frustrated, which means we spend a lot of time at home. We applied for the Lazy Spa because it was something we could use together as a family at home.”

“I applied for a grant for a wheelchair hood and a Flexzi iPad holder which attaches to her wheelchair. It wasn’t until we got the grant and bought it for Tia that I realised how much of a difference it would make for us.”

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"We were awarded a grant for clothing for our son, and a tumble dryer. Muhammad Yahya’s condition means that he is very prone to infection, so we have to make sure he always has freshly washed clothes."

"Aiden and his family were awarded a grant for a family break. Aiden got to do all sorts of new things, and enjoyed meeting lots of new people."

"The chickens encouraged Jacob to get outside more, the new additions to the family have also had an impact on Jacob’s communication."

"The educational apps help Emma with her learning, she loves watching videos, and it calms her down a lot too, it’s so useful."
How do I apply?

If you are applying for the first time you can:

Visit our website [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)
Here you can download an application form or ask for one to be sent out to your home. You may also be able to apply online.

If you cannot access our website, you can phone us at 01904 550055 or write to us at the address shown on the back of our leaflet.

If you have applied before:

You can use all of the options on the left as well as registering for a Family Fund online account, visit [www.familyfund.org.uk/my-account](http://www.familyfund.org.uk/my-account)
This is a quick way to apply and could speed up the process.

If you need any help making your application, you can visit our website which hosts a lot of information about how we help at [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)
What happens after you apply

We use our own eligibility criteria to make sure that we target our help appropriately. Once we receive your application we will need to check that you have provided us with everything we need. Missing information such as income and DLA (Disability Living Allowance) confirmation will delay an application. Please only send photocopies of this information.

✅ If you have applied to us for the first time we may arrange to visit you in your home or speak to you over the telephone to discuss whether we are able to help. We have around 200 Independent Assessors who do this for us and work at a local level across the UK, meeting families and providing extra information and signposting to other services.

✅ If you are applying again we do need to confirm that you and your child continue to be eligible for help. This is easier when the application form is fully completed with as much information as possible and any changes in circumstances since your last application are included.

All application forms that we receive are looked at in date order and we will try to process your application as quickly as possible.

Remember

Please complete the form as fully as possible as this will help us process your application quicker.
How do I check progress?

We try to process applications as quickly as possible and keep you updated as much as possible. If you do need to check the progress of your application, you can do so via:

- Checking online using our online applications system at www.familyfund.org.uk/my-account, if you have applied before.
- Visiting the ‘Contact Us’ section of our website.

Help us

make a real difference to families lives...

...tell us your story

We want to make sure we do the best we can for families. That is why we really want to hear your views on how our grants make a real difference. We use the feedback we recieve to constantly improve the way we work to help families just like yours. please go to: www.familyfund.org.uk/tell-us-your-story
This is how we help

"My son has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and I needed something to keep his attention. I was delighted when the Fund paid for his tennis lessons, they have been invaluable in helping him to let off steam.

"Because of my child’s condition I couldn’t get any nappies that fit correctly and was having to change her clothing four times a day. When I was told about the Family Fund, a grant for specialist clothing was awarded which enabled me to have nappies made that would fit.

"The Family Fund stepped in to help our family at a crucial time. We lost everything in a fire, the Fund helped with a table and chairs and clothing. I just don’t know what we would have done without their help at this very tragic time in our lives.

"We needed urgent help when our baby daughter Cliodhna was born with a severe heart condition. We filled in an urgent application to the Family Fund and the grant was processed within 24 hours, giving our family £500 towards the cost of getting to the children’s hospital in Belfast and buying food and meals when we were there.

"I can’t begin to say how life changing the help from Family Fund has been. We have been granted help over the years with a washing machine, some fencing in the garden and now help towards a family break. Life can feel quite hard sometimes and Family Fund has made such a difference to all of our family. The safe garden means I can let my son have some freedom while I can have peace of mind. Extra washing now gets done quickly and efficiently which has helped hugely. Thank you so much Family Fund you are fantastic!"