

Disability Grants Presentation

Introduction **SLIDE 1**

Everything with a disability or special needs label has an extra cost!

Finding enough money to pay for the additional cost of having a disability is an uphill struggle.

And finding the time to find that information is also difficult for individuals and families especially when you're trying to juggle everything in between work, hospital appointments, caring, therapies.....

So this talk is aimed at individuals and families not charities or disability groups.

What is a grant?

A grant is a financial donation or contribution.

Unlike loans they don't need to be repaid and the money you receive is not taxable.

Who provides Grants? **SLIDE 2**

Grants are offered by charities, trusts, local, regional and national government.

In the UK we are really lucky that many charities and trusts support disabled children and adults.

It doesn't matter whether the person has learning difficulties, a physical disability or emotional difficulties, or any other life-limiting condition.

Each charity is independent and has its own criteria for giving grants.

This includes who it will fund, what it will fund and how much it can fund.

Charities are looking for genuine need.

So only ask for things you need or don't have the money to buy yourself.

Grant money from charities and trusts was traditionally used to pay for things that couldn't be paid for by Local Authorities.

But increasingly they are being asked to finance items that previously would have been the LA's responsibility as cutbacks to LA funding making it impossible for them to continue to fund some items.

All will still offer grants such as the Disabled Facilities Grant to help with housing adaptations but the majority of funding depends on local needs and priorities.

This will differ around the country.

***Finding grants* SLIDE 3**

Looking for grants and extra funding is a daunting task with an array of options and conditions!

So, where do you go for information?

- Obviously my recommendation would be the Disability Grants website as this is aimed specially at anyone with a disability. But we don't have the monopoly on information.
- Turn 2 Us is part of the Elizabeth Finn Foundation – a large charity - offers an online benefit's and grant search. It can be contacted on-line, by telephone or face to face through their partner organisations.
- Citizens Advice – for information on local charities and trusts as well benefit and legal advice.
- Local Library – they may have details of local charities and a copy of the Directory of Social Changes book "Grants for Individuals in Need"
- Local councils sometimes offer a free database of grant information

***What can you apply for* SLIDE 4**

Each charity will list its priorities for funding depending on its interests. One may fund disability equipment while others will fund anything that improves quality of life. As needs change and new technology emerges charities are open to suggestions.

Give the reasons why the item for which you need the grant will help and the difference it will make to you or your child.

It also helps to include a picture of the item and a quotation to support your application.

How much will the charities fund?

This varies between charities and what you are applying for.

Larger charities may be able to fully fund an item and sometimes pay for the upkeep/servicing.

The majority of charities will make a contribution and expect the applicant to pay for part of the item themselves. This could be either from the Personal Independence Payment or for a child their Disability Living Allowance or from personal fund raising.

So who is eligible for grants? SLIDE 5

It all depends on what the charity support and their eligibility criteria for the funding

This may include:

- Disability or condition
- Age
- Gender
- Your religion
- Where you live
- How much you earn
- Your profession or your parent's profession

Making an application

Some charities are happy for individuals or family members to apply direct.

Other charities may prefer an application from a third party. This may be a medical professional or social worker who knows the individual or child.

The charity may ask for a report from a qualified professional to support your application. This is to make sure that the need is genuine and any equipment requested beneficial for the applicant.

A qualified professional may be a health professional, social worker, family support worker, or with children their headteacher.

The charity may ask for the report to be included on your application form. Or it may just ask for the professional's contact details so it can contact them direct.

How do you apply?

Each charity is different. Some use their own application form while others prefer a written application. Charities with a website may have an online form or a downloadable application form.

Can I apply to more than one charity?

Yes, you can!

When you make an application, let the charity know if you are applying to other charities, as sometimes charities will negotiate between themselves and agree to joint funding.

The only exception is the 'Dreams and Wishes' charities specially for children with life threatening or life limiting conditions. Only one application per child as these are often high cost items.

What information will they need? **SLIDE 6**

All charities will need:

- The name of the beneficiary
- The beneficiary's contact details
- Information about the child's disability or special needs
- What the child needs and why they need it

Increasingly more charities are asking for financial information. This may include either your income or with children their parents' income, household bills and loans. This is not to question how you spend your money, but an attempt to give their money to those in the most need. Fundraising is becoming harder for charities and funds are limited, so choices have to be made.

Describe in **detail** what you need and why you need it. Some things may seem obvious to you but the trustees of the charity may not have experience of the condition or disability.

Include cost quotations to support the application to give the charity an indication of the exact amount of money you are looking for.

It is important that you do not ask for more than you realistically need when making grant applications.

If you are able to contribute towards an item say so in your application with details of how much you are able to pay and whether you have fundraised to achieve this amount.

A Charity may only be able to contribute towards part of your costs and may ask if you have contacted other charities. **Again, be honest about your answer as charities will sometimes contact each other and agree to joint funding.**

Once you have made your application don't expect a quick reply.

Each charity operates within its own time frame.

Smaller charities can turn round grant applications more quickly and they may accept applications throughout the year, while larger charities may meet two or three times a year and are more likely to set a deadline for applications.

This information can be found on the charity's website or its application guidance notes.

Finally to recap some

Do's and don'ts **SLIDES 7 and 8**

Any Questions? **SLIDE 9**