

Funding & Support for Individuals

KCF has compiled a list of trusts, foundations and grant-making bodies that offer individuals funding and support, covering different areas and needs. We update the list regularly, but funds' criteria & availability may change.

General Grants & Support for Individuals

- [Better Housing Better Health](#) – a charity working in Kent to improve domestic warmth & wellbeing. A free helpline provides a single point of contact for services, advice and financial support to help improve the energy efficiency of your property.
- [Cash for Kids](#) – offer general grants and cost-of-living grants to support children from birth up to and including 18, who are vulnerable, come from disadvantaged backgrounds or are living with an illness or disability.
- [Citizens Advice](#) – find your local Citizens Advice and find out what support they can offer.
- [Energy Companies](#) – offering support with energy bills to help reduce fuel poverty, including: [British Gas](#), [Scottish Power](#), [E.ON](#) and [OVO](#).
- [Family Action Welfare Grants](#) – provide grants for essential personal and household needs to assist families and individuals with low incomes, particularly those living on benefits.
- [Find a grant](#) – is a pilot service by the Government that allows you to search and access government grants.
- [Friends of the Elderly](#) – provides grants to older people over State Pension age, living in England or Wales, who have a low income and savings of less than £4,000. Grants are for items such as home mobility adaptations and help with unexpected bills and large costs such as utility bills, funeral costs or moving fees.
- [Green Doctors](#) – a project, funded by the British Gas Energy Trust, offer a free advice service helping Kent households stay warm, save more on energy bills and keep the home comfortable. Visit their site or call 08002335255 or email greendoctorsouth@groundwork.org.uk.
- [Glasspool Charity Trust](#) – provide small, one-off grants to individuals and families in need of financial support for everyday items to help them set up or remain in their home and/or improve their overall well-being. *They accept new applications from 11am each Monday. From January 2024 this grants programme will cease and be replaced with [The Flexible Frontline Fund](#) will replace it.*
- [Hardship Help for Families in Kent](#) – Directory of Support for families experiencing hardship produced on behalf of the Local Children's Partnership Groups (LCPG) including a section with support in each KCC district.
- [Help for Households](#) – Government support for individuals to help with the cost of living.
- **Kent County Council Schemes and Support:**
 - [ReferKent](#) – is an online referral system that aims to strengthen referrals across Kent for adults and families who may be experiencing financial hardship.
 - [Digital Kent projects & schemes](#) – Including the [Connectivity Access Scheme](#) and [Digital Support Scheme](#).
 - [KCC's Kent Support and Assistance Service \(KSAS\)](#) – for those experiencing serious difficulties managing income due to a crisis or find themselves under exceptional pressures because of an emergency. *Currently not able to help with items like furniture, white goods and clothing.*
 - [Energy Financial Support](#) – Help from KCC if you are experiencing financial difficulty and paying your energy bill is a concern.
 - [Kent Together](#) – KCC service offering online information and helpline, to direct individuals to the support they need.
- [Lightning Reach Portal](#) – apply for financial support such as grants, local schemes and discounted tariffs. Find and apply for support from multiple providers. Summary of the current support providers [here](#).

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- [Percy Bilton Charity](#) – Assistance given to organisations & individuals in need. Charities assisting disadvantaged youth, people with disabilities, people with mental health problems and older people may apply for grants towards furnishings and equipment (excluding office items), building or refurbishment projects.
- [Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund](#) – provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving RAF personnel and their families. They consider any request for assistance, however big or small, providing a tailor-made approach to each individual situation. From mobility aids and confidential counselling to financial grants, they offer a range of support tailored to the individual's needs.
- [SEK](#) – Cost of Living Support across East Kent.
- [Smallwood Trust](#) – funding for women on low incomes and struggling to make ends meet, Cost of Living Fund.
- [Spark Foundation Grants](#) – for care leavers under the age of 26 with grants awarded up to £700.
- [SSAFA](#) – The Armed Forces charity, help the armed forced community by providing direct support to individuals in need of physical or emotional care.
- [Turn2Us](#) – has a grants search tool specifically for individuals as well as a benefits eligibility checker.

Grants & Support for Education

- [16 to 19 Bursary Fund](#) – Government bursaries to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and are studying at a publicly funded school or college in England (not a university) or on a training course, including unpaid work experience.
- [Buttle UK](#) – grants of up to £2,400 for children and young people impacted by recent crisis to provide items and activities.
- [City and Guilds](#) – offers bursaries up to £6,000 to cover the total cost of studying. Aimed at age 18 and over, in genuine financial need, UK resident and not started a course yet. *Open to applications in Spring, Autumn and Winter.*
- [Colyer-Ferguson Charitable Trust](#) – make grants of up to £500 to support underprivileged and disadvantaged young people living in Kent, helping them to navigate the difficult journey into adulthood and employment.
- [Computers 4 Charities](#) – supporting young carers that require access to computers to seek help, engage with others and to facilitate wider educational needs and learning from home.
- [Family Action Educational Grants](#) – provides grants to individuals over the age of 14, looking to unlock their educational potential by participating in further education.
- [The Scholarship Hub](#) – search and apply for UK scholarships, grants or bursaries for university.
- [Thomas Wall Trust](#) – award grants up to £1,500 to undertake accredited vocational training up to level 3 and towards other costs associated with studying.

Grants, Support & Equipment for Disabled People / Health Conditions

- [Action for Kids](#) – grants for children and young people up to 25 years old, who need specialist mobility equipment or a wheelchair to help them become more independent. *Waiting list for new applications is currently closed. Being reviewed in early December 2023.*
- [The Boparan Charitable Trust](#) – providing grants for specialist equipment and therapies up to age 17.
- [Caudwell Children](#) – provide funding towards life-changing mobility, sports and sensory equipment for disabled children and their families to help with their development, mobility and independence.
- [Children Today Charitable Trust](#) – support children and young people with disabilities by providing adapted equipment to help them and their families live less isolated lives.
- [Disability Grants](#) – a website to search for disability grants.
- [Dreams come true](#) – bedroom makeovers and garden play equipment for children living in the highest areas of deprivation in the country, and are living with a disability, serious illness, or life-limiting conditions.
- [Elifar Foundation](#) – for children or young adults with any form of physical or learning disability in need of specialised equipment such as wheelchairs, trikes, seats and sensory equipment.
- [Guide Dogs](#) – support for children & families including grants for assistive technology & sensory equipment.
- [Headway Emergency Fund](#) – provides one-off grants in the immediate aftermath of brain injury, to help adult brain injury survivors and their families cope with the sudden practical implications.
- [Independence at Home](#) – help for individuals who have a long-term illness or disability and need financial help towards the cost of equipment, home adaptations or other essential items to improve independence, comfort, safety and quality of life at home.
- [Involve - Personal Health Budgets for Wellbeing](#) – for young people up to age 24 with neurodiversity or suspected neurodiversity. Funding is a pilot project and only available to those with a Children’s Health & Wellbeing Navigator at one of these [GP surgeries](#). To discuss, email ellen.albinson@involvekent.org.uk.
- [Kent Association for the Blind](#) – assess for eligibility for free equipment and visit one of their resource rooms in Maidstone, Canterbury or Bromley, which stock equipment to sample.
- [Macmillan grants](#) – are small, one-off means-tested payments to help with the extra costs that living with cancer can bring. To discuss email r.stuart@sekgroup.org.uk.
- [Mobility Trust](#) – exchange your mobility allowance for a brand-new car, Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV/Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle), scooter or powered wheelchair through the Motability Scheme. For people who have severe disabilities and who cannot obtain such equipment through other means.
- [Newlife](#) – charitable provider of specialist equipment for disabled children. Grant funding for vital specialist equipment such as beds, buggies, wheelchairs and seating systems.
- [React](#) – helps families caring for children who are diagnosed with an illness that is life-threatening and has the potential to shorten their lifespan. They consider any request that meets a ‘basic, essential need’ or unavailable through any other source.
- [Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity](#) – provide specialist nurses and support for seriously ill children living with complex, lifelong conditions.
- [The Family Fund](#) – equipment – award grants to families who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 17 or under and meet the rest of their eligibility criteria. Grants for items including sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing, and computers.

Funding & Support for Individuals

- [The Langley Foundation](#) – grants to families at the early onset of illness or disability, who might own a small business, be a low-income family or perhaps reliant on benefits, to relieve financial pressure.
- [Tree of Hope](#) – is a crowdfunding charity that helps children and young people with a disability or illness by supporting their families to raise the money they need to pay for specialist care that is not freely available through the UK healthcare system.
- [Variety](#) – the children’s charity, award grants to support children and young people under the age of 19 who have a recognised disability or long-term health condition with [equipment](#) and [wheelchairs](#).
- [WellChild](#) – Helping Hands project works with teams of corporate volunteers to create safe, accessible and sensory garden and bedroom spaces for children and young people with complex health needs.

Grants, Support & Respite for Carers

- [The 3H Foundation](#) – helps people with disabilities and carers have a period of respite through their holiday grants and carer programme.
- [The Ben Saunders Foundation](#) – provide breaks at their Cotswolds holiday homes for young people with cancer, bereaved families who have lost a child in the past 3 years to cancer and any family where a parent of a child under 25 has received a terminal cancer diagnosis. Email: bensaundersfoundation@hotmail.com.
- [Carers Support East Kent](#) – provide information and support for carers. Including [carer’s needs assessments](#), and a [young adult carer service](#).
- [Imago](#) – support services in Kent for [young carers](#), [young adult carers](#) and [adult carers](#).
- [Carefree](#) – support unpaid carers with respite breaks.
- [Clevedon Forbes Fund](#) – provide grants to UK citizens of limited means, to fund / part-fund short convalescent breaks for those recovering from illness or trauma, or for carers to take a break.
- [Crossroads Care Kent](#) – help carers to make a life of their own outside caring, including [short breaks](#) and [young carers services](#).
- [Dreams come true](#) – holidays and experience days for children who are living in the highest areas of deprivation in the country, and are living with a disability, serious illness, or life-limiting conditions.
- [The Family Fund](#) – grants awarded for family breaks and days out.
- [Family Holiday Charity](#) – holiday offers for families on a low income, haven’t had a holiday together in the last 4 years and at least one child under 18 who will go on the holiday.
- [Mothers’ Union ‘Away from it all’](#) – a holiday scheme, giving the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life.
- [The Respite Association](#) – fund suitably qualified carers to take over so that the usual carer can take a well-earned break. They also provide free seaside holidays for carers to recharge their batteries.
- [Revitalise Respite Holidays](#) – provide breaks and holidays for disabled people. Their website has a section on ‘help with funding a respite holiday’ relevant to finding funding for their respite holidays and for others.
- [Sandcast Trust](#) – supports families living with a rare genetic condition, providing regular opportunities for family fun and respite to help families build positive memories, strengthen family relationships, reduce isolation, and improve mental wellbeing and resilience.