

Carers Winter Assistance Fund Guidance Notes

Dundee Carers Centre, Seagate House, 132 – 134 Seagate, Dundee, DD1 2HB

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What is the Carers Winter Support Fund?

Dundee Carers Centre have been awarded funds from Dundee Health & Social Care Partnership to provide further support to carers over the winter in recognition of the enormous role they play in looking after loved ones, and the added pressure many have faced during the cost-of-living crisis.

The Carers Winter Assistance Fund will provide financial assistance to unpaid carers in greatest need where they are unable to access financial help in other ways e.g., Scottish Welfare Fund.

Applications will be assessed by Dundee Carers Centre Funding Panel and their decision is final.

Closing Date is **Friday 1st March 2024**. We expect to receive a high number of applications and the funding available is limited, therefore the fund could close sooner than this date and at short notice. Applications will be assessed on a first come first served basis.

How much can be applied for?

A maximum of £300.00 (Three hundred pounds) can be applied for. Requests for amounts over £300 will only be considered in extreme circumstances.

Who can apply?

The fund is open to all unpaid carers who live in Dundee including young carers (8 and upwards) and parent carers. If the young carer is under 16, we require additional contact information and a signature from a parent/guardian.

An unpaid carer could be caring for someone of any age, with a physical or learning disability, elderly, mental illness, drug or alcohol dependency, or who is living with cancer or any other critical or chronic illness.

We can only accept one application per household.

What are the criteria?

You must be able to demonstrate in your application that you cannot pay for the request by any other means through your own funds.

The support required should complement, and not replace or duplicate, services which local authorities, the NHS and other agencies already fund or provide e.g. The Scottish Welfare Fund.

You must be able to demonstrate why you need the grant for example low income, impact of caring role on wellbeing, or another challenge in your caring situation. This fund is aimed at carers in greatest need meaning that not having this financial support would have a major impact on you and/or the person you are caring for.

You can only apply to this fund once.

What can I apply for?

Applications can be made for:

We would ask that you identify what would improve your financial wellbeing. Below are some examples but they are not restrictive to what you can apply for:

- Food and fuel (including public transport)
- White goods
- Winter clothing
- Bedding, furniture
- Technology

We cannot accept applications for:

Debt

Anything that has already been purchased

This fund is **not** for funding a short break. If you want to find out more about funding a short break, contact the Short Breaks Service at Dundee Carers Centre.

How do I apply?

Have a conversation between yourself and the professional supporting you to identify what you need and the difference it will make to you as a carer. This is important because you can both check that you meet the criteria, and you may identify alternative funding options.

All applications must include the name and contact details of one professional member of the community who has agreed to support your application. The professional will know about your caring situation and could be contacted by us about your application. This could be a worker at Dundee Carers Centre or another organisation that supports you, for example a social worker, health worker, GP, OT, teacher, or support worker.

If you are not in direct contact with a professional call Dundee Carers Centre and ask for help with this.

Complete the application form as fully as possible. All applications must be signed by you, **the carer**. Where the application is for a young carer under 16, an additional signature is required from a parent/guardian. In signing or agreeing the form you are consenting to sharing **all** of the information contained in the application form with Dundee Carers Centre Funding Panel. In addition, by signing the form you are confirming that the information you have provided is accurate and correct and that the funding will be spent by 31 March 2024. Please read the Privacy Statement in the application form for further information on how your data will be used and stored.

You can get an application in the following ways:

Download from our website: www.dundecarerscentre.org.uk/news

On request by emailing: winterfunds@dundecarerscentre.org.uk

Dropping into the Centre to pick up an application

By calling: 01382 200422

We accept electronic (Word document) and paper applications. Once your application is complete, please return to Dundee Carers Centre at the email address above, by dropping off at the Centre, or by post to:

Carers Winter Assistance Fund – Confidential
Dundee Carers Centre
Seagate House
132-134 Seagate
Dundee
DD1 2HB

What happens when I submit my application?

All applications will be assessed by Dundee Carers Centre Funding Panel. Panel members include senior managers at Dundee Carers Centre and two external professionals one from Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership and one from Brooksbank Debt & Benefit Advice Service.

The Panel will meet approximately twice per week to assess the applications and make decisions on awards. Where appropriate they will make additional recommendations to assist you.

The Panel aims to reach a decision within 7 - 10 working days and we will communicate to you the outcome of your application.

We also need your bank details so that we can make a payment to you. If you do not wish to provide your details until your funding is confirmed please leave that section blank and we shall contact you for those details if required. However, you should note that providing your details now will speed up the payment process if you are awarded a grant.

We will ask you to provide feedback on the fund and if you are given an award, we will ask how the financial assistance has helped you.

Who can I talk to about this for more information?

You can contact us for more information at:

winterfunds@dundecarerscentre.org.uk

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