

Help with the costs of moving

General

You should check you are getting all the benefits to which you are entitled. Your local Citizens' Advice Bureau should be able to help you with a benefits check.

Landlord schemes

Social landlords are not obliged to assist with the costs of removals where tenants have chosen to apply for a transfer, or are moving through the Seaside and Country Homes scheme. However, many councils and some housing associations have incentive schemes for tenants who are giving up larger properties, so if you are under-occupying and wish to move it is always worth asking your landlord whether you are entitled to any help with your removal costs.

The Discretionary Social Fund

This fund has a yearly budget which is quite limited so it restricts the amount that is available to be awarded. Help may be available in the form of community care grants, budgeting loans or crisis loans. Each request is decided individually, depending on personal circumstances but there are directions and official guidance for the Social Fund decision makers. If you do not agree with the decision made by the Social Fund decision maker you can ask for a review at your local Jobcentre Plus

office. If you are still not happy you can ask for your case to be referred to the Independent Review Service (IRS). The IRS aims to deal with reviews within 12 days. Grants do not have to be repaid but loans do.

Community Care Grants

Applicants have to be in receipt of Pension Credit, Income Support or income-based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The amount of grant you may get will be reduced if you have savings over £1000 (£500 for people under 60).

The aims of Community Care Grants are to: help people either establish themselves or to remain in the community; help with the care of a prisoner or young offender on release on temporary license; ease exceptional pressure on families; help people set up home as part of a resettlement programme; assist with certain travel expenses. Each Social Fund District has a fixed budget which is unlikely to pay for all the items individuals apply for. Decision Makers have to use their discretion to determine whether an expense is a high, medium or low priority. Costs which have the most priority are more likely to be paid. Each case must be decided on its merits.

Examples of when a CCG may help with moving costs are when:

- someone is moving back into the community from a care home, hospital or other residential establishment providing a significant amount of care, supervision or protection; or
- a frail, elderly or disabled person needs to move to more suitable accommodation to be able to live an independent life in the community or to be near to relatives or close friends for care or support.

These examples are not exhaustive. To apply you will need to get application form SF300 from the local Jobcentre Plus office or download from http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms/sf300_print.pdf

Budgeting Loans

Applicants have to have been on Pension Credit, Income Support or income-based Job seekers Allowance (JSA) for at least 26 weeks, and they need things they cannot afford at the time they need them. Loans are from £100 and £1,500 depending on need and the ability to repay. The amount of loan you may get will be reduced if you have savings over £2000 (£1000 for people under 60). You can get loans for furniture or household equipment and advance rents or removal costs for a new home, amongst other things.

To apply you will need to get application form SF500 from the local Jobcentre Plus office or download from http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms/sf500_print.pdf

Crisis Loans

These are for people who do not have enough money to meet their immediate or short term needs in an emergency or as the result of a disaster, or where without such a loan there would be damage or serious risk to their health and safety. A Crisis Loan has to be repaid, but is interest free.

To apply you will need to get application form SF401 from the local Jobcentre Plus office or download from www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/claimforms/sf401_print.pdf

Charities and Benevolent Funds

There are many different charities and trusts in the UK. Some may be able to help anyone in need, and others are restricted to people in particular groups, relating to trades, professions or the forces, illnesses or disabilities and sometimes particular religions, or people living in specific localities. If you are 60 or over and are getting Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit, payments from charities or benevolent funds should not affect these means-tested entitlements.

Sources of help

The **Directory of Social Change** should be available in your local library, and lists over 2000 charities, and gives information on how to apply.

Turn2us is part of the Elizabeth Finn Charity and provides an advice service that helps people find appropriate grant

giving charities as well as checking their benefit entitlement.

Tel: 0808 802 2000 (8am-8pm
Monday-Friday) Website;
www.turn2us.org.uk/

Postal address: Turn2us, Unit 9, Cefn
Coed Parc, Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ

**Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and
Families Association Forces Help**

(SSAFA) is for current and former servicemen and women (anyone with one day's paid service) and their dependents. The head office can be contacted on 0845 1300 975, or visit www.ssafa.org.uk , to get contact details for your local branch.

Charity Search gives free advice on possible funding sources to older people. Contact 0117 982 4060 or visit www.charitychoice.co.uk

Revised July 2010