

# A Guide to Finance and Grants



When your child has been diagnosed with retinoblastoma, the financial cost may be the last thing on your mind but frequent visits to hospital for treatment and checkups can leave some families short of money. There are some government benefits and charity grants which you may be entitled to which could help. How to deal with the financial impact of diagnosis may be the last thing you want to think about in the early days, so here are some organisations you could contact to ease the strain at this difficult time. If your circumstances change or you find the financial pressure mounting, you can still apply. Below are some charities which offer one-off grants to help with the needs of your child during treatment.

## **CLIC Sargent** [www.clicsargent.org.uk](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk)

This national children's cancer charity offers grants for immediate help to families coping with treatment for cancer. Exceptional Grants, Community Support Grants and Compassionate Grants are also available to some.

If your child is receiving chemotherapy then ask the ward where they are being treated to put you in contact with a CLIC Sargent social worker who can arrange a grant for you. If your child does not need chemotherapy then your support worker from the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust can make a referral with your permission and your contact details. Alternatively you can contact CLIC Sargent.

Tel: 0800 197 0068 (freephone)

## **The Family Fund** [www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)

The Family Fund is a registered charity which receives an annual grant from the national governments of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This is open to low-income families with children under 15 years old who have a severe disability or serious illness. Requests are considered on their merits and grants are awarded to help parents/carers meet the needs of the child e.g. travel expenses, domestic equipment, holidays and even driving lessons for a parent. You can make one application every 12 months.

Tel: 0845 130 4542 for an application form or download it via the website.

## **Macmillan** [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

Macmillan is a large cancer charity. Individual grants are offered for assistance with a wide range of issues that relate to family circumstances and coping with treatment. Grants vary in amount and vouchers will be given for equipment.

Tel: 0808 808 0000 or apply via a Macmillan nurse.

**There are some government benefits and charity grants available which could help you.**

### **The League of the Helping Hand** [www.lhh.org.uk](http://www.lhh.org.uk)

LHH is a national charity which provides financial help to people who are in hardship due to illness or disability. Only those who are living on a very low income will be considered for a grant.

Tel: 01444 236 099

### **Local charities**

It may be worth looking for help from charities local to your home, particularly local cancer charities. Your cancer treatment hospital may be able to help you find them or you can contact Macmillan who keep a list of some local support groups. Your health visitor or paediatric community nurse may also be useful people to ask. If you are in extreme financial difficulty your Childhood Eye Cancer Trust support worker may be able to find additional grants for your family which are not listed here.

### **Turn 2 Us** [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

Turn 2 Us help people access money that may be available to them through welfare benefits, grants and other help. Their website has been designed to help you find appropriate sources of financial support, quickly and easily, based on your particular needs and circumstances.

Tel: 0808 802 2000

## **Help with the costs of travel**

### **The Hospital Travel Costs Scheme**

If you already claim Income Support/ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance/ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Guarantee Pension Credit, you will automatically qualify to receive travel costs for one accompanying adult for a child attending hospital for treatment or clinics. You also qualify if your income is £15,050 or less and you get either Working Tax Credit with the disability element or Child Tax Credit. If you are on a low income but not on benefits or allowances you should enquire about the **NHS Low Income Scheme** as you may still qualify for financial help.

Ask at the hospital's cashiers office for details of the expenses which they reimburse but please be aware this may vary from hospital to hospital.

This factsheet was written in 2010 with the most current information at the time. Due to changes in the economy, the funds on offer may also change. Please see your Childhood Eye Cancer Trust support worker if you need further help.