

FINANCE & 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 check-ups can leave some families short of money. There are some government benefits and charity grants 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.

CHARITIES OFFERING FINANCIAL HELP

CLIC Sargent

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 CHECT support worker can make a referral, you can call CLIC Sargent on 0800 9154439 or email welfareadvice@clicsargent.org.uk.

www.clicsargent.org.uk

The Family Fund

The Family Fund charity has an annual grant open to low-income families with children under 17 years old who have a severe disability or serious illness.

Requests are considered on merits and grants are awarded to help parents

SUPPORT

Please get in touch with one of our support workers if you would like to discuss any of the information in this leaflet.

Visit our website at chect.org.uk for further information on support available and stories from other families affected by retinoblastoma.

/ 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. Applications can take up to three months to process.

Tel: 01904 621115 for an application form or download it via the website.

www.familyfund.org.uk

Macmillan

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. Macmillan has specific income levels to gauge eligibility.

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

www.macmillan.org.uk

LHH

The League of the Helping Hand (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. Applications must be made via a CHECT support worker or social worker.

www.lhh.org.uk

Lennox Children's Cancer Fund

This national charity provides Care Grants to families battling the financial side effect of cancer after a child is diagnosed. If your child is under 18 years old and has been diagnosed with or undergone treatment for cancer or leukaemia in the last 12 months, you can apply for support. Priority is given to new applicants.

Applications can be made via a CHECT support worker, a social worker, or direct by downloading a form from the website.

www.lennoxccf.org.uk

Turn2us

Turn2us helps 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 circumstances.

Tel: 0808 802 2000

www.turn2us.org.uk

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, or the Childhood Cancer Parents Alliance members, who both keep lists of local support groups. Your health visitor or paediatric community nurse may also be useful to ask. If you are in extreme financial difficulty your CHECT support worker may be able to find additional grants which are not listed here.

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 £15,276 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 receiving benefits or allowances you should enquire about the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) as you may still qualify for financial help:

www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/nhs-low-income-scheme.aspx

www.chect.org.uk

t 020 7377 5578 e info@chect.org.uk

[@ChectUK](https://twitter.com/ChectUK) [/CHECTUK](https://www.facebook.com/CHECTUK)

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