

# Community Care Grants from the Social Fund and the Rights to Review

HOW COMMUNITY CARE GRANTS CAN HELP OLDER PEOPLE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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**Independent Review Service  
for the Social Fund**

# What are community care grants?

Community care grants are part of the Social Fund and they can help older people who get Pension Credit to pay for important things they need in certain situations.

## Can I get a community care grant?

You may be able to get a community care grant to buy things if you need help to:

- **Get back on your feet after being in hospital or a care home**
- **Stay in your own home and be independent**
- **Cope with difficult problems in your family (such as health problems)**
- **Visit someone who is ill or go to a relative's funeral.**

There is a set amount of money for community care grants. Only the most important and urgent needs can be paid.

## Savings

If you have more than £1,000 in savings, you may not be able to get a community care grant.

# How do I apply for a community care grant?

You have to fill in a form called SF300. You can get this from:

- **Your Pension Service centre**
- **Jobcentre Plus or Social Security office**
- **Department for Work and Pensions website:**  
**[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)**

Send the completed form to your local Jobcentre Plus office.

## Your Rights to a Review

### By Jobcentre Plus

If you are not happy with the decision on your community care grant application you have the right to a review by a Reviewing Officer at Jobcentre Plus.

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### By a Social Fund Inspector

If you are not happy with the Reviewing Officer's decision you have the right to an independent review by a Social Fund Inspector. Please turn to the back page for more details.

# How do I apply for a review by a Social Fund Inspector?

- Fill in the tear-off part of leaflet IRS1 (sent to you by Jobcentre Plus with the Reviewing Officer's decision). The IRS1 leaflet is also available to download at [www.irs-review.org.uk](http://www.irs-review.org.uk)

**Or**

- Write a simple letter to say why you want a Social Fund Inspector to review your application

Send this by freepost within 28 days of the Reviewing Officer's decision to: INDEPENDENT REVIEW SERVICE, FREEPOST. We will do the rest.

## What will the Social Fund Inspector do?

The Inspector will write to you about your case. He may ask you for more information.

The Inspector will normally let you know his decision within 12 working days. He will change the decision made by Jobcentre Plus if it is wrong.

### **IRS 7**

#### **Independent Review Service**

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