



Carers Grant Fund Application Form

Who is a carer?

The MS Society values the important role played by families and carers in the lives of people with MS. We know that many people may not define themselves as a formal carer; they may think of themselves simply as supporting a family member or friend, helping out.

For the purposes of the support and information the MS Society provides we define a carer as someone who, without payment, provides help and support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour with MS, who could not manage fully without their help. If you think this describes yourself, you may be able to receive a carers grant from the MS Society.

What you can apply for

Please find below a chart which outlines the grant categories, how old you must be to apply for each category, how often you can apply, and what you can apply for.

We want the fund to be as flexible as possible in terms of what you can apply for. There are two main themes; leisure and personal development.

Leisure includes recreational activities (or associated costs e.g. equipment, transport) which would be beneficial to you in some way, giving you a chance to relax, socialise, or try something new. This could include a school trip if you are a young carer, sports equipment, music lessons, gardening equipment, etc.

Personal development includes courses (or associated costs, e.g. course materials, transport) to enable you to get back into work, embark on a new career to fit in with your caring role, or develop other 'life skills' such as learning to drive.

Carers Grant Categories	Age	How often can you apply	Maximum amount awarded	
			Leisure	Personal development
Young carers	15 years and under	Once	up to £300	up to £300
Transitional carers	16 - 24	Once	up to £300	up to £1000
Adult carers	25 years and above	Every 5 years from previous grant award	up to £300	up to £1000

How to apply

Some local MS Society groups consider grant applications for people in their area, if they have grant funds. Not all of our groups can consider grants at the moment, so if you haven't received this grant application form from your local MS Society group, please contact them **before you fill in this form**, to check they can consider your application.

Please complete this application form and enclose a letter of support from someone who is able to confirm that you are a carer of someone with MS and can describe what your caring role involves on a daily or regular basis. This could be a teacher, carer's support worker, social worker, health professional or an MS Society Support Volunteer.

We will also need a written quote for the cost of the request.

Please note that the MS Society will not award grants retrospectively. We cannot consider requests for purchases already made in full or in part, or for which a deposit has been paid or an order placed. Do not make any payments before we have considered your application.

Statutory funding

Where appropriate we require that statutory funding is explored prior to a grant being applied for. If you have explored statutory funding sources, please let us know the outcome.

Household savings limits

Please note that the MS Society is unable to consider requests from adult carers (25 years and above) with over £23,000 in household savings.

Contact us

If you have any queries regarding your application, or need help completing the form, please speak to your group.

Please read the guidance notes on the previous page before completing this form.

Part 1 About you

Please complete as fully as possible, ticking where appropriate. Please note that carers under the age of 18 should ask a parent or guardian to complete this form on their behalf.

Carer's details

Title First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Home telephone Mobile telephone

Email Date of birth

Are you caring for someone with MS? Yes No

If yes, please give their name and relationship to you, eg wife, partner, son, friend etc

If you are completing this application on behalf of a carer below the age of 18 please give details of the person they care for below

Title First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Home telephone Mobile telephone

Email Date of birth

The MS Society is committed to helping all people affected by MS and equal consideration will be given to each application, whether from a member or non-member of the Society.

Are you a member of the Society?

- Non-member
- Member

Part 2 What you are applying for

Please specify what type of grant you are applying for

- Young carers grant – 15 years and under
- Transitional carers grant – 16-24
- Adult carers grant – 25 years and older

Please use the space below to describe what you are applying for.

When will the leisure or personal development activity take place?

From

To

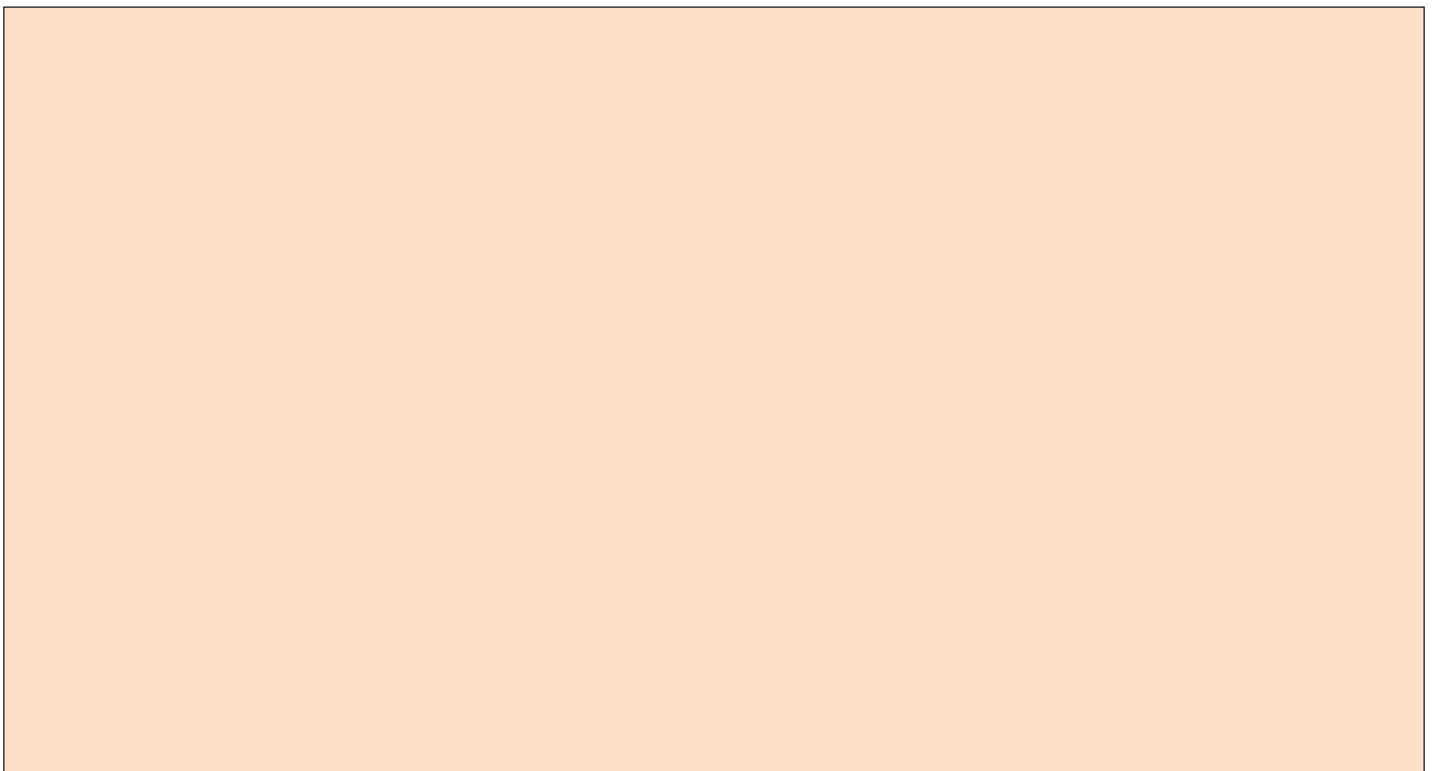
Part 3 **How will you benefit?**

How will you benefit from the grant, if awarded?



Part 4 **Your caring role**

Please describe your caring role. What does this look like on a daily or regular basis? How long have you been caring for this person? Briefly describe the kind of tasks you do around the house and/or for the person with MS. Do your caring responsibilities have an impact on your work and/or social life? If you are completing this on behalf of a young carer please tell us about a typical day for the young person, including whether their caring role has an impact on their school work and/or social life.



Part 5 Savings levels

Do you have any accessible household savings or capital? Yes No

If yes, please give details. For example, bank, building society, post office account or any other form of savings. If you are making a contribution from your savings please indicate the amount remaining. **We cannot consider grants for adult carers (25 and over) with over £23,000 in household savings.**

Description of savings	Amount

Part 6 Cost of the request

Total cost of request £

Contributions from family, other charities etc (please specify) £

£

£

Amount outstanding £

If the amount outstanding is more than the maximum amount the MS Society could award (see page 1 for the maximum award levels) could the activity go ahead?
Is there anything that would need to change?

Part 7 Data Protection

The MS Society will hold and use the personal details you have provided on this form to process your application for financial assistance. We may contact your health or social care professional if we feel that they can give more supporting information. In some cases we may share the information you have given with other funders such as statutory or charitable sources to try to secure additional funding for you. We will also use the information you have given to show how our grants programme makes a difference to people affected by MS; to do this, your information will be used anonymously and will be combined with information from other applicants.

We process the personal information provided, including your health data, on the lawful basis of your consent to consider your application for financial assistance. If successful your data will be held by the MS Society for up to seven years as a legal requirement and will not be used for any other purpose.

Yes, I consent to the MS Society processing my data, including my health data as outlined above.

Thank you for trusting us to respect your privacy. We will do all that we can to keep your data safe. You can view our full Privacy Notice at <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/privacy> or call our Supporter Care team for a copy. You can also update your contact preferences by emailing supportercare@mssociety.org.uk or calling 0300 500 8084.

Declaration

If you are completing the form yourself, please sign section 7(a).

If someone else is completing the form on your behalf, they should sign section 7(b).

To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this application is correct.

7(a)

Please print name:

Signature:

Date:

7(b)

Full name:

Relationship to applicant:

Address (if different from above):

Telephone Number:

Signature:

Date:

Part 8 Other information

Please give any other information you feel would be helpful.

Part 9 Carers Assessment

If you are an adult providing regular care for a family member or friend you may be entitled to a 'Carers Assessment' from your local social services department. Governments across the UK recognise the impact that caring responsibilities can have on family carers and legislation requires that Carers Assessments are actively promoted by local councils and that carers' access to employment, education, respite and leisure are addressed as part of that assessment.

Children and young people who provide care for a parent or sibling also have a right to an assessment and this will be accessed via their local children's social services department.

Have you had a Carers Assessment of your needs?

Yes No

If you haven't had a Carers Assessment, the MS Society would encourage you to request one by contacting your local social services department.

Checklist

- Have you completed the application in full?
- Have you provided quotes for the cost of your request?
- Have you provided a letter of support?