

Parkinson's UK Personal Grants 2025 - Guidance for applicants

Please read this guidance carefully before you fill in your application form. **We've made some changes for 2025 which may affect your eligibility or the information you need to send with your application.**

When to send us your application

There will be **two opportunities** to apply for a **Parkinson's UK Personal Grant in 2025**.

Round 1 opens on **Monday 13 January**. The closing date is **Sunday 6 July**.

Round 2 opens on **Monday 28 July**. The closing date is **Sunday 14 December**.

Applications received after these closing dates cannot be accepted and you would need to submit a new application when the next round opens.

Section 1 Your details

Who can apply?

Parkinson's UK offers personal grants to people living with Parkinson's and their principal unpaid carers, such as their partner, family member, or friend. The grants are to provide funding towards items, activities or services that will improve your well-being.

People with Parkinson's or other forms of progressive parkinsonism are eligible to apply for a grant, alongside those who care for someone with either condition and are not paid for their caring role.

We don't count any carer's benefits received as being paid. In any household or family, **only one carer** may apply in any year.

To apply for a Parkinson's UK Personal Grant, your **total combined household savings** must be within the following criteria:

Amount of funding applied for	Total combined household savings
£0 - £500	Less than £600
£500 - £1,500	Less than £16,000

Section 2 Details of a person who is applying on someone's behalf

If you have difficulties with completing your application form yourself, someone you trust can complete it for you:

- **The person you choose must provide their details in Section 2 and provide your details in Section 1.**
- **They must also be prepared to sign the advocate's or representative's declaration in Section 8.**
- **If someone completes the form for you, you should still sign the applicant's declaration if**

you are physically able to.

Section 3 What are you asking us to pay for?

The categories for items or services that you can apply for are detailed below. **You can only apply for items or activities in ONE of these categories:**

Category	Examples	Maximum award
1. Activities	Physical activities; recreational activities; social activities; transport costs; equipment; childcare	£250
2. Household items	White goods; furniture; carpets; electrical goods & technology	£500
3. Respite care	Overnight, weekend or residential care; regular care visits; additional costs incurred on a holiday because of condition or caring responsibilities	£1,000
4. Home adaptations	Adjustments to your home that help maintain independence, reduce the risk of falls or make caring responsibilities easier to carry out	£1,500
5. Specialist equipment	Profiling beds; riser-recliner chairs; mobility scooters; powered wheelchairs	£1,500

The list of examples above is not exhaustive. Our Grants Panel may also consider applications for items or activities not mentioned here, if you can explain how the item or activity will significantly improve your quality of life.

Providing quotes

In Section 3, we ask you to provide quotes for the item or service you want us to fund:

Category	Quotes Required	Conditions of Quotes
Activities	1	Quote from service provider or therapist or standard scale of charges for recreational activities
Household items	2	Print-outs from website, pages from a catalogue, or a price list. At least one quote from Currys for electrical, white goods or technology items
Respite care	1	Quote from your chosen service provider on provider's headed notepaper and naming you directly

Home adaptations	2*	Quotes must be from appropriate and reputable suppliers
Specialist equipment	2	Quotes must be from appropriate and reputable suppliers

*If your Occupational Therapist recommends a specific contractor, or if we are contributing to works undertaken by your Local Authority as part of a Disabled Facilities Grant, we only require one quote.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have a personal connection with the supplier or service provider who is providing quotes for your application, or a financial interest in any business providing quotes, you must tell us so that the panel is aware of that relationship before making an award.

What we won't fund

We don't fund holidays, long-term financial commitments, or daily living costs.

We won't fund items or services that you have already paid for or for which you've paid a deposit or payment has been committed.

We won't fund items or respite where funding for them is available to you from the Government or your Local Authority.

Section 4 How will a Parkinson's UK grant help you?

This is the most important section of your application. Our grants panel wants to know what difference a **Parkinson's UK Grant will make to your life with, or caring for someone with, Parkinson's.** You don't need to write a long explanation. Tell us simply how the item, activity or service you want us to fund will improve your daily life or what it will help you do.

Section 5 How much do you need?

In section 5, we ask for details on **how much the item or activity you are requesting costs**, and **how much you are requesting from us.** If the item or activity you are requesting is **more than the maximum we can provide**, please explain how you will fund the difference.

Section 6 Your finances

To apply for a Parkinson's UK Personal Grant, your total combined household savings must be within the following criteria:

Amount of funding applied for	Total combined household savings
£0 - £500	Less than £600

Total combined household savings means:

- Money held in bank accounts and/or building societies
- Stocks and shares
- Gilts, bonds, ISAs or any other savings
- Partner's savings if you are married or living together

If you've no savings, you must confirm this by putting **£0**. **Leaving this question blank will delay your application.**

Benefits

We also ask you to confirm which benefits you currently receive. We ask for this information so that we can better understand your situation and also identify any other ways by which we may be able to support you. **This information will not affect the outcome of your application.**

Other financial support

Some Parkinson's UK Local Groups offer their own financial assistance schemes. **We need to know if you've received or have applied to receive financial help from any of our local groups.**

We won't contact the local group about your application, but we may need to ask you for more details about any financial help they plan to give or have given you in the last year.

Section 7 Information to support your application

With your application, you **MUST** provide a letter that **directly supports your application** from an appropriate health or social care professional who knows you and understands your condition or your caring responsibilities:

Category	Appropriate professionals for supporting letter
Activities	Parkinson's Nurse; Occupational Therapist; Physiotherapist; Parkinson's UK Local Advisor; Paid Carer; Doctor; Social Prescriber; Social Worker
Household items	Parkinson's Nurse; Occupational Therapist; Physiotherapist; Parkinson's UK Local Advisor; Paid Carer; Doctor; Social Prescriber; Social Worker
Respite care	Parkinson's Nurse; Occupational Therapist; Physiotherapist; Parkinson's UK Local Advisor; Paid Carer; Doctor; Social Prescriber; Social Worker
Home adaptations	Occupational Therapist

Specialist equipment	Occupational Therapist; Physiotherapist; Speech and Language Therapist; Parkinson’s Nurse (if you do not work with any of the other therapists)
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Any letter from a professional to support your application should include:

- **relevant background information about you and your condition**
- **details about why the item or activity is suitable for you**
- **their view on how it will improve your daily living with Parkinson’s**

It might be helpful to show these guidance notes to the person you ask to write the letter.

For some categories or requests, we also require the following information:

Category or Request	Further information required
Respite care	Evidence that you have asked for help from your local health and social care service and why their service couldn’t help
Home adaptations	Evidence that you have applied for a Disabled Facilities Grant and detailed information about your adaptation, such as drawings and plans of the proposed works
Wheelchair or powered wheelchair	Evidence that you have asked your local health service to provide a wheelchair for you and why they weren’t able to help
Mobility scooter*	Full specialist mobility assessment evidencing the mobility scooter is suitable for your needs and that you can use it safely and confidently
Specialist furniture	Evidence that you’ve tried the specialist furniture you want us to fund and that it is suitable for your needs

IMPORTANT NOTE: Some specialist mobility suppliers, for example, AbleWorld and TGA Mobility, are able to offer you a detailed assessment by trained and accredited staff at your home before you decide on the model.

*TGA Mobility offers their ‘Zest’ compact car-boot scooter with a special reduction for Parkinson’s UK Personal Grants applicants. You can contact TGA Mobility on 01787 882244 for further details and to arrange an assessment and home visit.

Section 8 Declaration

If you **complete the application form yourself** or complete it with help from a social care professional or other support worker:

- **you must sign the declaration** to confirm that all the information you've provided is accurate and complete.

If someone who cares for you, or a relative, friend or advocate **completes the application on your behalf**:

- **they must sign the advocate or representative's declaration.** This is to confirm that all the information they have recorded for you is accurate and complete and that **you've given your permission for them to apply for you**

Section 9 Monitoring questions

This section asks for information about you as an applicant to our grants programme.

We ask for this information so that we can:

- **better understand who we are reaching, serving and supporting in our work and programmes**
- **understand who we are not currently reaching**
- **identify who may be under-served**

These questions are completely optional and you do not have to provide this information in order to submit your application.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any information you provide in this section will be separated from other sections of your application and will remain anonymous. The information in this section is not shared with the grants panel and will not affect the outcome of your application.

Funding from the Government or from your Local Authority

If the funding you need might be available from the Government or from your Local Authority, **you MUST check this before you apply for a Parkinson's UK Personal Grant.** You can find out more by visiting <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/information-and-support/money-grants-and-benefits> or calling our free, confidential **Helpline** on **0808 800 0303**.

What happens next?

You'll receive a letter, email or phone call from us to tell you that we have received your application form and **when you can expect a decision from us.** We aim to tell you whether you've been awarded a grant within **four weeks** but during busy periods it can take longer than this.

Please wait to contact us about your application until the date we've provided in our letter or email, unless your circumstances change or you have more information that will help support your application.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If your application doesn't have all the information our panel needs, we'll contact you for the additional information and advise you on how to find the information you need. We ask that any missing information is sent within 4 weeks of us contacting you.

Our grants panel of trained volunteers is made up of people with Parkinson's, people who care for someone with Parkinson's and health and social care professionals.

The information you supply in your application form and any letters or documents you send us will be anonymised only be used by the panel to make their decision and for no other purpose.

Please note:

- **Payments are made directly to the supplier or service provider, not the applicant**
- **You should not pay, in part or full, for or place an order for any goods or services that you want us to fund, even when you know your application has been successful. Doing so may mean that we have to withdraw our offer of funding**
- **Successful applicants may not apply for another Parkinson's UK Personal Grant until a full calendar year after the date of their acceptance of any award. If you returned your Grant Acceptance Form on 1 January 2025, you could not reapply until 1 January 2026**

In the event of our funds being over-subscribed, priority may be given to applicants who have not previously received a Parkinson's UK Grant.

What if you are not happy with the grants panel's decision?

The Financial Assistance Programme Manager welcomes your feedback by:

- **Phone: 020 7963 3765**
- **Email: grants@parkinsons.org.uk**

We'll use all the feedback we receive to help us improve our programme. However, **the decision of the grants panel is final.**

General data protection

We need to collect your personal data to contact you to process your application. Personal data will be treated as confidential and is only visible to the Personal Assistance Grants team who process your application. We will only contact you about matters regarding your application.

By submitting your application you agree to Parkinson's UK collecting and storing information about you and your support request.

Data from all applications will be stored for two years and then destroyed.

More information about our Privacy Policy can be found on our website:

www.parkinsons.org.uk/about-us/privacy-policy

If you have questions about the scheme or your application, please contact the Financial Assistance Grants Manager at Parkinson's UK on **020 7963 3765** or email grants@parkinsons.org.uk.