

The Government has announced that just over £37m will be available to families with children and young people (0-17) that have complex needs and disabilities in 2020/21 through the Family Fund.



£10 million of the total has been committed specifically in response to the unique difficulties presented by the coronavirus pandemic, helping parents educate and look after disabled or critically ill children who are staying at home more than usual.

Families can apply directly to the Family Fund, or can be supported by a professional, support worker/social worker to make an application. Applications can be made for grants, typically worth £400-500, to support families with things like the cost of equipment, goods or services - from computers, tablets, washing machines and refrigerators to sensory and educational equipment that they might not otherwise be able to afford.

In order to qualify, there is some general eligibility criteria, You can check that here, including a helpful video. <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/are-we-eligible-to-apply>

Families will need to have evidence of entitlement to any one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit.

If you have applied previously to the Family Fund, you can also now apply earlier – nine months after your last application. You will also hear from them within 10 weeks of submitting your application.

While continuing their essential grant support, there will be delays in some areas given the impact of Coronavirus on the Family Fund team and suppliers, specifically around family breaks.

To apply, visit <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/how-do-we-apply>. There is a wide selection of FAQ's on the site, but if you cannot find the information you need, you can contact SEND IASS on 02476 694307 or iass@coventry.gov.uk