Independent Living Fund Scotland

We also support independent living in Northern Ireland

The Independent Living Fund Scotland





The Independent Living Fund Scotland

The Independent Living Fund (ILF) Scotland is a public body that administers social care funding for disabled people in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It inherited the Independent Living Fund in 2015 from the ILF UK, which had closed to new applicants in 2010.

It now has three funds – the **Independent Living Fund**, the **Coming Home Fund** and the **Transition Fund**.

The Independent Living Fund

The Independent Living Fund is a discretionary fund that helps disabled people get the support they need to live independently, be part of their community, and have more choice and control in their daily lives.

The Fund provides ongoing monthly awards and is usually in addition to the funding people receive from local authorities and / or Health and Social Care Partnerships in Scotland, or Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland.



The Independent Living Fund Re-Opened in Scotland

The Fund re-opened in Scotland in April 2024.

Who is the Re-Opened Independent Living Fund for?

Access Principles of the Re-Opened Fund

The re-opened fund is for disabled people who:

- live in Scotland
- are aged 16 years or over at the time of application
- receive a social care support package of at least £800 per week
- or receive a social care support package of at least £485 per week, where an unpaid carer lives with them and provides a significant level of care and support

How much can ILF Scotland award?

The maximum award that ILF Scotland can pay is £330 per week.

What can the awards be used for?

The Fund provides an ongoing award that can help support disabled people to:

- overcome barriers to independent living
- have choice and control and live an independent life
- develop or maintain physical, mental or spiritual health and wellbeing
- stay safe and manage any risks inside and outside the home

In most cases, people use their award to purchase additional social care support by employing a Personal Assistant or purchasing support from a care provider to help them to, for example:

- undertake work, learning, or training
- participate in civic society
- be involved in their local community
- pursue personal hobbies and interests
- see family and friends, and attend social activities

Occasionally, we might be able to fund other types of support including, where needed, a one-off cost if we agree that it meets a Recipient's independent living outcomes.

We will not normally fund support or services that another public body is responsible for providing such as:

- care and support currently or previously funded by a local authority or Health and Social Care Partnership

- medical or nursing care
- independent living or communication aids
- adaptations to a home or home boundaries
- everyday expenditure such as food or clothing

ILF awards cannot be used as personal income.

Applying to the Re-Opened Independent Living Fund

Applications to the ILF must be submitted by local authority social work departments on behalf of disabled people in Scotland.

All potential applicants should already have the relevant social care support or SDS package in place.

Each local authority will have its own approach to identifying and prioritising potential applicants.

Find the most up to date contact details for your local authority on our website: **ilf.scot/go/la-contacts**

If you have any questions, please email us at **enquiries@ILF.scot** or call us on **0300 200 2022**.

ILF Scotland will assess all applications received to confirm that they meet the Access Principles of the fund and are consistent with our policies. If so, we will then visit potential Recipients to complete the application process, determine if we can offer funding and agree how this can be used.

Coming Home Fund

In August 2026, the new ILF Scotland Coming Home Fund opened to applications.

The Scottish Government and COSLA Coming Home Action Plan, updated in March 2026, aims to support people with learning disabilities and complex support needs to:

- move from hospital or inappropriate out of area placements back to their communities, close to family and friends
- remain in their communities where their current support is at risk of breaking down

Everyone has the right to live independently, connected to the people and communities that matter to them. The ILF Scotland Coming Home Fund plays an important role in supporting disabled people to realise these rights.



Who is the Coming Home Fund for?

Access Principles of the ILF Scotland Coming Home Fund

Potential Recipients must meet the following Access Principles:

- the individual is currently living in Scotland or is planning to move to Scotland following an out of area placement or hospital discharge
- the individual is living outside Scotland but the local authority in Scotland is responsible for funding their care and support
- the individual is categorised as Red on the Dynamic Support Register

The application for funding should support one of the following:

- discharge from hospital
- return from an inappropriate out of area placement
- remain in the community

All applications should be supported by:

- a current comprehensive Personal Action Plan, based on involvement by individuals, families, and others as appropriate
- a costed Service Specification / Discharge Plan, which should confirm specific barriers to living in the community that ILF Scotland funding could help to overcome

What can Coming Home funding be used for?

Coming Home funding can be used in a variety of ways to support independent living including:

- ongoing care and support arrangements
- discharge planning, transitional and short-term costs related to enabling someone to move from hospital or inappropriate out of area placements
- addressing other practical barriers to enable discharge from hospital or return from inappropriate out of area placements
- additional support to allow individuals to remain in the community

What the funding cannot normally be used for:

Coming Home funding will not normally fund the cost of support or services that are the responsibility of another public body, for example, the local authority and / or Health and Social Care Partnership such as:

- medical or nursing care
- residential care costs
- everyday living costs such as food or clothing
- large-scale capital investment such as buildings or developments

Applying to the Coming Home Fund

Applications to the Coming Home Fund should be submitted by local authorities on behalf of potential Recipients.

If a family member wishes to explore funding on behalf of a relative, they should contact their local authority in the first instance.

All applications will be assessed by ILF Scotland on a case-by-case basis.

Find the most up to date contact details for your local authority on our website:
ilf.scot/coming-home-fund/local-authority-contacts

If you have any questions, please email us at **cominghome@ilf.scot** or telephone us on **0300 200 2022**.



Transition Fund

ILF Scotland has administered the Transition Fund since its launch in 2017. It provides one-off discretionary grants of up to £4,000 to young disabled people in Scotland aged between 16 and 25 years.

These grants help young disabled people:

- with transition from school or children's services
- become more engaged and active in their community
- enhance their independence and confidence
- spend more time with other people

#TrySomethingNew





Young people or their representative can apply online, and the grant normally runs for a period of 12 months.

The Transition Fund prioritises young people who receive little or no support from social work and ILF Scotland will not normally fund services or items that another public body is responsible for providing.

It can fund activities or items relating to, for example, art, music, sport, driving lessons, and IT equipment. See the ILF Scotland's website **ilf.scot/transition-fund** for more information.

Read about how some young people have used their funding and the difference it has made at **ilf.scot/go/tf-case-studies**

Visit **ilf.scot/transition-fund** to find out more about the fund and how to apply.

Independent
Living Fund
Scotland

Contact us

ILF Scotland
Ground Floor, Denholm House,
Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

T: **0300 200 2022** E: **enquiries@ILF.scot**

If you need this document in an alternative format please contact us.

Follow us

@IndependentLivingFundScotland

@ILFScotland

@ILFScotland

ILF Scotland Limited is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland. Company Number SC500075. Registered Office Ground Floor, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston, EH54 6GA.