

SMARt Moves FAQs

What SMARt Moves grants will cover?

All grants will be paid directly to the supplier, not the beneficiary. Grants will only be awarded for your chair.

SMARt Moves 1.1

Offering grants to fully fund powered wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs that cost up to a maximum of £5,000

SMARt Moves 1.2

Offering grants of £5,000 towards powered wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs that cost over £5,000 (in exceptional circumstances funding may be awarded over this amount).

SMARt Moves 2

Offering grants up to £2,500 for other mobility equipment, including risers and batteries etc.

Your application

1. Who can apply for a grant?

- You must be an adult living with SMA or be a parent/guardian of a child with SMA

2. I don't meet all of the criteria, can I still apply?

- No, unfortunately we need you to meet all the criteria set out.

3. Will the grant help towards other wheelchairs eg sports chairs, powered football chairs etc?

- No, this grant is not for sports chairs.

4. How long will SMA UK take to review my application?

- We endeavour to let you know about your application status within one week of applying.

5. Can I apply if I am already working with the Outreach team to source a piece of equipment?

- The Outreach team will have made you aware of the grant and can work with you on the best way for you to source the equipment you require.

6. Can I speak to someone about the progress of my application?

- You can contact the support team on SMARTmoves@smauk.org.uk and someone will get back to you.

7. If I (or SMA UK) were unable to raise the remaining balance for the wheelchair within 6 months, will I need to reapply?

- no, we will continue to work with you - it can take time to raise extra funds!



8. How many times can I apply to the SMART moves grant?

- You can apply once per year for either 1.1 or 1.2 plus SMART Moves 2. This means you can apply to get access to a wheelchair i.e. £3000 under smart moves 1.1 but then also apply to smart moves 2 to get a modifications i.e. specialist brakes. Likewise if you apply to SMART moves 1.2 you can get your more expensive chair plus apply to smart moves 2 for an extra /replacement battery.

9. If unsuccessful on my first application, will I be automatically reconsidered or do I need to reapply again?

- No, you will need to reapply again the next year.

10. If I am unsuccessful, how long do I have to wait before I can apply again?

- You can reapply when the grant rounds open up again the next year.

11. How up to date does my physio or OT statement letter need to be?

- This must be dated within the last 6 months of your application.

12. I've waited so long for my OT letter/WCS voucher that my quote is now 5 months old – can I still use it or do I need a more recent quote?

- It will be your responsibility to make sure your quote and supporting letter are current at the time of applying for the grant.

13. I can't get an appointment for Wheelchair services for at least 12 months Can I apply now?

- If you have an up to date OT assessment to attach to your application you can apply.

14. We need to include a point about the applicant going to Wheelchair services for their voucher.

- This should be the first point of call.

15. I have two kids with SMA. Can I apply for 2 wheelchairs?

- Yes you can, but these must be two separate applications

16. Why have you set the criteria to include an SMA diagnosis letter?

- Our SMART Moves grant is only allocated to people living with SMA as such we will need to see proof of diagnosis.

17. If my application to SMART Moves is rejected, will SMA UK explain why?

- Yes, you will receive an explanation via email.

18. Will I be income assessed?

- For SMART moves 1.2. i.e. if your wheelchair is over £5000 during the application stage you will be asked how you are going to fund the remaining balance. If you are self-funding this through personal savings or private fundraising efforts e.g., a just giving page then you do not need to tell us about your overall income or savings. However, if you require SMA UK to assist you to source other grant funding to pay for the balance then you will subsequently be asked, through a secondary form to complete further income checks. The reason for this is that many other trusts will only contribute if you are on certain benefit or meet the specific means-testing requirements for the charity of choice.

19. We do not provide the full cost of the equipment and the applicant will be required to raise the additional funding from other sources. We can support with applications to third party funders, although we need to know that you are making efforts to identify the remaining funds when you complete your application form.

20. Relates to question 18. Access to work. The applicant needs to explore this option if you are working before we will issue the grant.



Wheelchairs and Equipment

1. All wheelchair and disability equipment are VAT exempt. How do I make sure I'm not charged with VAT?

- As the applicant you will need to speak to the supplier directly about completing a VAT exemption form.

2. Will this fund be available for a wheelchair or piece of equipment that I have already purchased?

- No, we won't fund retrospective payments.

3. Who is liable for any repairs?

- You as the owner of the chair are responsible for any repairs and maintenance.

4. What should I do with my wheelchair or item once I've outgrown it?

- There are several website where you can resell or donate any unwanted mobility equipment – Support and Outreach can support you with this.

5. Do you cover insurance for my wheelchair – maintenance or breakdown? If not where can I go?

- No we do not cover insurance for your wheelchair.

6. Do you fund double buggies? I have a child with SMA and a new baby.

- Yes, we will fund double buggies.

7. Will you fund a new powerchair and a manual chair in case my powerchair breaks down.

- Yes, if it is within the cost of the grant.

8. Can I purchase a powerchair or manual chair from a private seller?

- No, all purchases must be from an official registered supplier.

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