



FUNDING OPTIONS

Purchasing a new wheelchair or scooter can be expensive, but fortunately there are a number of organisations and schemes in place to provide financial support.

There are four main funding routes available - we've summarised each one within this leaflet to help you identify the most suitable one for you.

Read on to find out more...



CONTACT US

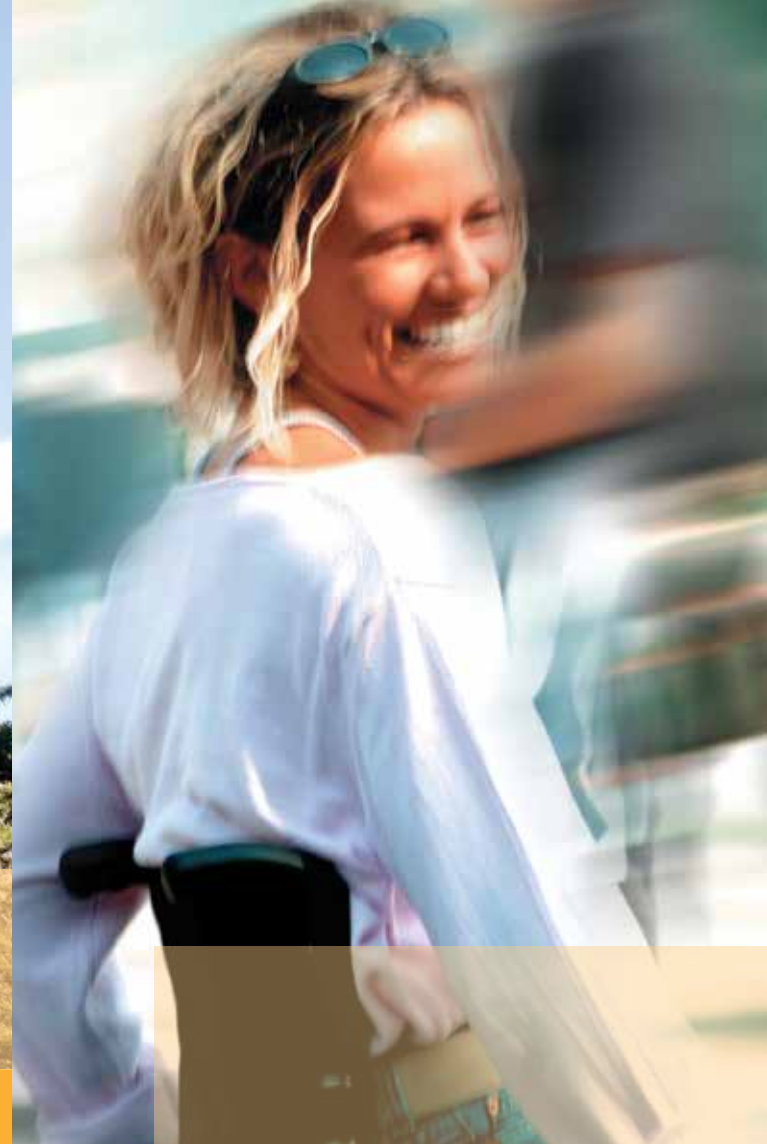
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Wheelchair and Mobility Scooter Funding

Helping you to find financial support for your manual or powered wheelchair or mobility scooter.



NHS WHEELCHAIR SERVICES



NHS Wheelchair Services are run by local health authorities. They allocate funds to the Wheelchair Service and Primary Care Trusts who are responsible for providing the service itself.

Because each local authority runs the service independently it can vary between locations, but most services operate in the following ways:

- You are referred to the local NHS Wheelchair Service
- They make an assessment of your needs
- They will discuss timescales and funding options with you
- They provide the wheelchair, along with training in how it should be used
- They agree a maintenance and repair plan with you

Wheelchairs can be manual or powered, and they may also provide accessories such as cushions, armrests and trays.

ELIGIBILITY

Each service has its own eligibility criteria and the details of your referral will be reviewed to work out its priority. Factors taken into account include the nature and level of your disability or medical condition, your lifestyle and needs, and where and when you will use the wheelchair.

If you cannot propel a manual wheelchair, you may be eligible for a powered wheelchair.

NEXT STEPS

Your first step is to find someone who can refer you to the service. This might be a hospital, doctor, consultant or occupational therapist, or some services may operate a self-referral system. Once the referral has been made, you should expect an acknowledgment within a week.

ACCESS TO WORK

Access to Work aims to provide advice and support to both you and your employer if your health or disability has an impact on the way you do your job.

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for support from Access to Work if you're:

- in a paid job
- unemployed and about to start a job
- unemployed and about to start a work trial
- self-employed

And your disability or health condition stops you from being able to do parts of your job.

Visit the [direct.gov](https://www.direct.gov.uk) website to see if you are eligible to apply for the scheme. If so, you can download a letter about the scheme to show potential employers.

NEXT STEPS

Contact your regional Access to Work contact centre to find out if you are eligible. If so, you will be sent an application form to complete and return.

An Access to Work adviser will then work with you and your employer to decide on the best solution to support you. This is generally done over the telephone, but may involve a visit if necessary.

Once approval for the support has been given, it is your employer's responsibility to arrange for the support and purchase any necessary equipment. They then claim the costs back through Access to Work.

Find out more about this scheme at www.direct.gov.uk



THE MOTABILITY SCHEME



Motability

The Motability Scheme is run by the independent not-for-profit organisation Motability.

Under the scheme, you can use your government-funded mobility allowance to pay for the scooter or powered wheelchair of your choice. You have the flexibility to choose whether to use all, or part, of your allowance.

ELIGIBILITY

If you receive one of the following benefits, you qualify for the scheme:

- Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
- War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement

You must have at least 12 months' award length remaining when you apply, and parents can apply on behalf of a child who receives the allowance.

NEXT STEPS

If you are eligible, contact your local Motability dealer and arrange for a home visit to help you choose the right scooter or powered wheelchair. Once you have chosen the product, the dealer will make the order and liaise with the relevant agency to organise taking the payments from your allowance.

Visit www.motabilitycarscheme.co.uk for more information, and to find your nearest dealer.

CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



If you're not eligible for any of the schemes above, you may be able to access financial support from a charity or voluntary organisation. Some charities, like Whizz-Kidz, even provide wheelchair skills training.

Direct.gov provides a comprehensive list of charities providing support to disabled people.

Find out more on their website: www.direct.gov.uk