

Leaflet 1 - What is the Independent Living Fund?

This leaflet contains information about:

- The Independent Living (1993) Fund
- The Independent Living (Extension) Fund
- Who can apply to the 1993 Fund
- How payments from the Fund can be used
- How payments from the Fund should not be used

What is the Independent Living Fund?

Some Fund users are not sure about what the Fund is and how it works, so here is a brief explanation about the Fund.

The Independent Living Fund is made up of two separate Funds.

These two Funds are called **The Independent Living (Extension) Fund** and **The Independent Living (1993) Fund**.

You will receive your Fund payments from one Fund or the other. Which Fund you use will depend on when you first applied to the Fund.

The Independent Living (Extension) Fund makes payments to people who first applied **before 31 March 1993**. The Extension Fund is not open to new applications.

The Independent Living (1993) Fund was set up in 1993 and makes payments to people who applied **after 1 April 1993**. The 93 Fund is open to new applications.

Both Funds were set up by central government. The Funds receive all of their funding from central government. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is the government department that sponsors the Funds.

Both Funds are intended to support people with disabilities so they can live independently at home, rather than in residential care. The Funds make payments to people with disabilities so that they can afford to employ personal assistants (PA's), or a care agency, to provide the support that they need to remain at home.

What's the difference between the Funds?

There are two main differences between the Funds.

- 1. The Extension Fund is not open to new applications, whereas the 93 Fund can accept new applications**
- 2. The 93 Fund must work in partnership with Local Authorities, whereas this rule does not automatically apply to the Extension Fund**

Working with Local Authorities

The 93 Fund works in partnership with Local Authority Social Services Departments. The 93 Fund can **only** make payments to you if you get Social Services support to the value of £200 per week. This support from Social Services can take the form of direct services, for example a Day-Centre placement, or money from a Direct Payment scheme.

The Extension Fund does not require payments of £200 per week from Social Services. Whether or not Social Services are involved in supporting someone who uses the Extension Fund will depend on the individual circumstances. There is more information about this in leaflet 11.

Who can use the Funds?

There are rules about who can use the Extension Fund or apply to the 93 Fund – please see the next page.

The Extension Fund

To be able to continue to get payments from the Extension Fund, the Fund user must meet all of the following conditions:-

- **They must be living in the UK**
- **They must receive the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** NB some Extension Fund users who applied before June 1990 do not receive the highest rate care component of DLA but this is rare and under approved circumstances; the majority of Extension Fund users **must** receive this in order to continue receiving payments. Please see leaflet 6 for more information about what to do if you stop getting Higher Rate DLA.
- **They must have capital of less than £18,500**

Once the Fund has approved an award, there are strict rules about how the money can be used and what information you, the Fund user, need to give to the Fund. These rules and requirements are detailed in this leaflet, or in other leaflets produced by the Fund, and you must fulfil all of these rules and requirements in order to continue receiving payments.

The 93 Fund

To be able to get payments from the 93 Fund, the person applying must meet all of the conditions on the next page:

- **They must be living in the UK**
- **They must be at least 16 years old and under 66 years old**
- **They must receive, or have an underlying entitlement to, the highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**
- **They must receive support from their Local Authority Social Services Department, or Council with Social Services Responsibility, to the value of at least £200 per week**
- **They must have capital of less than £18,500**
- **They must expect to live independently at home for at least the next 6 months**

Once the Fund has approved an award, there are strict rules about how the money can be used and what information you, the Fund user, need to give to the Fund. These rules and requirements are detailed in this leaflet, or in other leaflets produced by the Fund, and you must fulfil all of these rules and requirements in order to continue receiving payments.

Children and the 93 Fund

Children under 16 are not eligible to apply to the 93 Fund. This means that the Fund cannot pay money to help employ personal assistants to support children under 16 years of age.

In some circumstances, an organisation called the Family Fund Trust can help with grants for children under 16. The Family Fund Trust is based in York and can make grants for various things like holidays for

disabled children or transport costs. A current telephone number for the Family Fund Trust can be obtained from Directory Enquiries.

The information in the rest of this leaflet, and other leaflets within the User Guide, applies to both Funds

Once you have started to get your Fund payments, the information you need about how they can be used, and the information you need to give to the Fund, is the same for the Extension Fund and the 93 Fund. Information contained in this leaflet, and in the other leaflets contained within your User Guide, applies to both Funds. In order to make the leaflets as simple as possible, we have referred to “**the Fund**” throughout the leaflets; this means both the Extension Fund and the 93 Fund.

What can you use your Fund payments for?

The Fund is provided to pay for the cost of employing personal assistants (PA's) or a Care Agency so that you can live independently at home.

The Fund is intended pay for personal and domestic care. This means that it can be used to pay PA wages or Care Agency costs for help with various personal and domestic tasks, such as:

- Bathing
- Toileting
- Washing
- Dressing
- Laundry

- Cooking
- Shopping
- Cleaning
- Other personal care or household tasks

If you need help with personal care when you are not at home, for example when socialising or at work, then payments from the Fund can sometimes be used for this too. However, payments cannot be used for socialising costs, for example cinema tickets or swimming admission, for either you or your PA.

Paying close relatives

Payments from the Fund **cannot** be paid to a close relative acting as a PA **if they live in the same house as the Fund user**. A close relative is generally defined as one of the following:

- Husband or wife
- Partner
- Parent, parent-in-law, step-parent
- Aunt, uncle, grandparent
- Son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, or step-son or daughter
- Brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, step-brother or sister
- Or the spouse or partner of any of the people listed above

However, payments from the Fund **can** be used to pay a relative included in the above list, **so long as** they **do not** live in the same house as you.

Other things you can use the Fund for

The cost of employing Personal Assistants (PA's) can be more than just paying their wages. If you employ a PA privately, as their employer you have certain responsibilities and costs you must meet. The following is a list of the type of thing that you may need to pay for:

- The cost of advertising and recruiting PA's
- Employers' Liability Insurance
- Tax and National Insurance Contributions for your PA, where there is a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) scheme in operation
- Payroll costs
- Holiday Pay for your PA
- Statutory Maternity or Sick Pay for your PA
- Some additional costs for live-in carers

Your Fund payments can be used to pay for these things, as they are associated with the cost of employing a PA.

What is not covered by the Fund?

The Fund has strict guidelines detailing what you can't use the payments for.

The Fund **can't** be used to pay for the following:

- Wages of a **close relative**, acting as a personal assistant (PA), **who lives in the same house** as the Fund user
- Help provided by Social Services, including residential respite care, home care stamp or any other charges
- Household bills, including food and clothes
- Heating and laundry costs, even if they are associated with your disability
- Gardening
- Petrol or other travelling expenses
- Holidays
- Private Hospitals or Residential Care Homes
- Care or assistance for someone other than the Fund user, even if they are disabled and live in the same house
- Childcare
- Wheelchairs or other equipment
- Adaptations to homes

- Socialising costs, for example cinema tickets for you and/or your PA, or meals whilst you are out
- Furniture
- Hairdressing or chiropody, unless for essential personal care
- Physiotherapy, aromatherapy, hydrotherapy or massage

This is not a complete list.

This list does not cover everything. If you are not sure about how the Fund's payments can be used, please telephone the Fund and a member of staff will be happy to help you. The telephone number is 0845 601 8815. **There is more information about how to contact the Fund in leaflet 2.**

Fund users and childcare costs

Some of the people who receive support from the Fund have children. There are several things the Fund cannot do:

- The Fund cannot make payments to help with the cost of childcare
- The Fund cannot give extra support for Fund users to help them carry out tasks that parents usually do

This is because Fund payments are made to cover the care needs of the disabled Fund user and are not for any other member of the family, even if they need care themselves.

If you are a disabled parent and you need to make childcare arrangements, or you need support to help you care for your child/children, please discuss these needs with your Local Authority Social Worker.

How and when are payments made?

The Fund makes payments at the end of every 4 weeks, usually directly into the bank account of the Fund user. **There is more information about how Fund payments are made in leaflet 4.**

Contact us if you have any questions.

If you have got any questions about the information provided in this leaflet, please contact the Fund and a member of staff will be happy to help. Information about how to contact the Fund is contained in leaflet 2.