

Motability Foundation – Charitable Grants

Motability Foundation funds, supports, researches and innovates so that all disabled people can make the journeys they choose. We oversee the Motability Scheme and provide grants to help people use it, providing access to transport to hundreds of thousands of people a year. We award grants to charities and organisations who provide different types of transport, or work towards making transport accessible. We also carry out ongoing research, in partnership with disabled people and key stakeholders in the industry, to inspire innovations that continue to champion accessible transport for all.

Scheme-Related grants

We know that for some disabled people, their Motability Scheme vehicle is the only way that they can travel, and that a grant is the only way they can lease the vehicle they need. Scheme-related grants are means tested to support those who are least able to afford the vehicle they need. We provide the following Scheme-related grant programmes:

Car and Vehicle Adaptations:

The Car and Vehicle Adaptations Grant Programme supports customers of the Motability Scheme with the cost of the Advance Payment or adaptations for a vehicle that meets their disability needs. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs):

A WAV is a commercial vehicle that has been adapted so that a wheelchair user can enter and exit in their chair, for example via a ramp, and either remain in their wheelchair when travelling or transfer to a seat and secure the wheelchair or scooter safely. Our WAV Grant Programme supports our disabled beneficiaries with the cost of the Advance Payment for their WAV on the Motability Scheme, including adaptations needed for getting into their WAV and/or securing their wheelchair safely. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Complex Driving Solutions:

Some disabled people need an individualised driving solution or adaptations to enable them to access a vehicle whilst remaining in their wheelchair and either drive from their wheelchair or transfer onto a specialist driver seat. They may also need specialist controls to be able to drive. As these vehicles are tailored to the individual, they are considerably more expensive than a standard production WAV. They often

require complex adaptations together with familiarisation driving lessons so the disabled person can get used to driving their new vehicle and use its controls safely. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Bespoke Passenger Solutions:

Our Bespoke Passenger Solutions Grant Programme launched in April 2022 and will run for three years to provide up to £15m of support to beneficiaries with the most complex needs. In The programme focusses on supporting beneficiaries with more complex disabilities or needs when they are travelling as a WAV passenger. This could include requirements such as lay-flat seats in the WAV to support with changing requirements, the installation of hoists in the WAV to allow transfer from the wheelchair into a seat or the use of screening within the WAV to protect beneficiaries and their carers whilst driving. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Access to Mobility Grants

The Motability Foundation also provides grants directly to disabled people. These grants help people to stay mobile in different ways, for example by paying for driving lessons or helping people fund equipment they need to be able to work but also use outside of their working hours. We provide the following Access to Mobility grant programmes:

Driving Lessons Grants:

Through our Driving Lessons Grant Programme, the Motability Foundation provides Scheme customers who have a provisional licence and want a full driving licence with grants towards the cost of learning to drive. We also provide grants to Scheme customers who already have a driving licence but need familiarisation lessons, for example if they need to get used to new driving adaptations. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Transitional Support:

Although the Motability Foundation has no role in determining mobility allowances, Motability Scheme customers may be affected by the changes that the Government made by replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with Personal Independence Payment (PIP). We have transitional support options to support Scheme customers who may have been unsuccessful transitioning from DLA to PIP. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Additional Transitional Support:

Additional Transitional Support (ATS) is available to help Motability Scheme customers who cannot continue with their lease because of a reassessment by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and are unable to meet the costs of a replacement vehicle or the adaptations which they need. The reassessment could be when moving from DLA to PIP. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Access to Work:

Disabled people can use the Government's Access to Work scheme to fund mobility equipment they need to work during their usual working days. If they need the same equipment outside of their working hours, this grant programme can help cover the costs. More information about this programme can be found on our website.

Grants to Charities and Organisations

In 2022/23, we significantly expanded our support for other charities and organisations, introducing six new Impact Grant Programmes. These programmes are designed to provide support in areas where our wide range of research – including insight from Motability Foundation beneficiaries, Scheme customers, other disabled people and representative organisations – has shown opportunities to have the greatest impact for all disabled people.

The programme is funded by £50m allocated from a donation from Motability Operations in 2021. The programmes cover the following areas:

- Community Transport
- Wheelchair Sector
- Active Travel
- Research
- Travelling with Confidence
- Reducing Barriers to Driving

More information about these programme can be found on our website.