



# Manual of Funding Sources to Assist Families

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Remember to...

## Government Sources for Financial Assistance

### Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD): Ministry of Community and Social Services

- Government funding to help cover the additional costs of having a child with special needs live at home under the age of 18
- Eligible families can receive up to \$440.00 per month depending on their income and the child's needs
- Self referral accepted
- Web page:  
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/disabilities/index.aspx>

### Child Disability Benefit

- Government of Canada income benefit for **children with severe and prolonged disabilities**. The Child Disability Benefit is a tax-free benefit, a supplement to the Canada Child Tax Benefit payments of up of \$2,626 per year (\$218.83 per month) for families with eligible children **under the age of 18**
- Child disability benefit guideline table: [http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/cdb\\_pymnt10-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/cdb_pymnt10-eng.html)
- Web page: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cdb.shtml>

### Disability Tax Credit

- The disability amount is a non-refundable tax credit that reduces the amount of income tax you have to pay

### Medical Expenses

- Many expenses, directly related to a disability, which families pay for (mobility aids, ramps, accessibility, renovations, etc.) may be claimed as medical expenses on one's tax return
- Eligible medical expenses: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/Ins300-350/330/llwbl-eng.html>

### Ministry of Health Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

- 75% of the cost of some therapy equipment, up to a pre-set maximum is covered under the Assistive Devices Program. The remaining 25% is the responsibility of the family
- Additional resources may provide assistance for the remaining 25%
- Eligibility includes any Ontario resident who has a physical disability of six months or longer and holds a valid Ontario Health card
- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/adp/>

### Hope Air

- Arranges free flights to get financially disadvantaged Canadians the health care they require
- Request a flight <http://www.hopeair.org/RequestAFlight/RequestAFlight.aspx>

### Northern Travel Grant

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funding to individuals living in Northern Ontario who need to travel 100 kilometers or more, to see a specialist or designated health care facility
- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/ohip/northern.aspx>
- 1-866-532-3161

### Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

- This program is for qualifying adults with a disability
- Provides financial help with living expenses (food, housing)
- Employment support is also available if needed
- Self referral is accepted
- <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/odsp/>

### Sales Tax Exemption- Ontario Government

- Exempt from PST for artificial limbs and prosthetic appliances, orthopaedic appliances, hearing aids and batteries and equipment designated solely for the use of people with visual impairments or physical disabilities

- Purchase of a vehicle to be used to transport a person with permanent disability may be eligible for sales tax rebate
- 1-800-263-7965

### The Incontinence Grant

- Ministry of Health program that is for children and youth between the ages of 3-18 with a chronic disability resulting in irreversible incontinence lasting longer than 6 months
- The grant is a contribution to the cost of supplies and may not cover all costs
- Application must be completed and signed by a medical physician licensed to practice in Ontario
- Website <http://www.easterseals.org/services/incontinence-supplies-grant>
- Refer to application form  
<http://www.easterseals.org/wp-content/downloads/Incontinence-Supplies-Grant-Application.pdf>
- 1-416-421-8377

### Trillium Drug Program

- The Trillium Drug Program is for residents of Ontario who spend a large part of their income on prescription medications. Once a certain amount of money has been spent by a family the government begins to provide financial assistance
- Covers all drugs under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program
- 1-800-387-5559
- [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/drugs/programs/odb/opdp\\_trillium.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/drugs/programs/odb/opdp_trillium.aspx)



## **Service Providers (nursing, skill development, therapies)**

### Community Care Access Centres (CCAC)

- Provides services such as nursing, occupational therapy and speech therapy at a client's home/school once client is discharged from hospital
- Amount of hours of care provided each week varies depending on a client's needs and the availability of staff
- Enhanced respite may be provided by CCAC to qualifying clients; this can be used to pay for additional nursing or support personnel (up to a maximum of \$3500)
- Self referral accepted
- <http://www.ccac-ont.ca/Home.aspx?LanguageID=1>

### Special Services at Home Program (SSAH): Ministry of Community and Social Services

- Provides families of children with physical and intellectual disabilities and adults with intellectual disabilities with a pre-arranged annual contract to arrange for in-home/in-community parent relief and skill development
- Based on the needs of the individuals and their families
- Caregivers hired through these funds can be a relative
- Application is required
- Self referral
- <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/specialservices/index.aspx>

# Equipment/Assistive Devices Funding

## Assistive Devices Program

- For the purchase of medically necessary equipment and supplies for Ontario residents with long-term physical disabilities
- Pays up to 75% of the cost of equipment
- Home Oxygen program under ADP pays 100% of the ADP price for oxygen and related equipment for seniors 65 years of age or older and also younger if they are on social assistance
- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/adp/>
- 1-800-268-6021

## Easter Seals Ontario

- Eligibility: Clients up to 19 with physical disabilities that impairs/impact on mobility and registered with Easter Seals Ontario
- Provides equipment funding for costs not covered by ADP, family resources and private insurance
- See website for detailed lists of items eligible for funding: “Approved Listing of Equipment, Services and Programs for Funding and Criteria”. This includes accessibility aids, bath and toileting aids, communication and writing aids, mobility aids, orthotics, camp
- Submission of applications (see website) is January 1 to September 30 annually
- Request for Financial Assistance must be submitted prior to the equipment/items being ordered
- <http://www.easterseals.org>

## Kids You Can Count on Us Foundation

- Offers one time only grants for equipment and home renovations
- Contact Loblaws for information at 1-866-996-9918

## Ontario March of Dimes

- Provides funding for adults with physical disabilities 19 years of age and older who are in financial need to purchase assistive devices to increase their mobility and functional independence

- Their priority is to provide funding for devices that will: Assist adults with disabilities that restrict their mobility and prevent them from living safely in their homes; enable discharge from a hospital or rehabilitation centre; help avoid job loss; and support opportunities for participation in educational, developmental and community activities
- <http://www.marchofdimes.ca>
- Thunder Bay Location: 237 Camelot St, 1-807-345-6595
- Toll free: 1-800-335-0715

### President's Choice Charities

- Helps children 18 and younger with a physical or developmental disability with families that need financial help with mobility equipment, environmental modification or therapy
- Application form:  
[http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en\\_CA/community/pccc.html](http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en_CA/community/pccc.html)

### Private/Employee Insurance

- Many families have private insurance, which will cover such items as drug, equipment and nursing care. Your policy booklet will provide information on what types of areas will be funded.

### The Home and Vehicle Modification Program (HVMP)

- Funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and administered by March of Dimes
- HVMP provides funding for basic home and/or vehicle modifications. By reducing or eliminating life safety risks, these modifications enable children and adults with mobility restrictions to continue living in their homes, avoid job loss and participate in their communities
- <http://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/hvmp/Pages/HomeandVehicle.aspx>

# Artificial Limbs/Dental Treatment Funding

## Cleft Lip and Palate

- Ministry of Health will pay 75% of the cost of specialized dental treatment for children and young adults
- To be eligible you must register at a designated clinic and attend a multi-disciplinary assessment
- For more information contact a Speech Language Pathologist at the Centre
- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/child/cleft.aspx>

## Ministry of Health Dental Assistance Funding

- Provides 75% dental funding assistance to residents of Ontario up to 22 years of age with severe congenital and acquired dental dysfunction
- Clients must register with one of the 9 regional Cleft Lip and Palate/Craniofacial Dental programs across the province and be seen by the team to determine eligibility for this funding

## War Amps and CHAMPS

- Program provides financial assistance for artificial limbs and various recreational devices as well as emotional support through programs to persons who are missing a limb or limbs as a result of an accident, medical reasons, or congenital amputations
- To enroll in the CHAMP program, children must be under the age of 18, born missing a limb or limbs or have lost a limb due to accident or medical causes
- Over 18 years of age, individuals may access the War Amps program
- <http://www.waramps.ca/home.html>

## **Funding for Cerebral Palsy and other severe disabilities**

### Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity

- Provides financial assistance to qualifying families
- Assist children who are seriously ill, have a permanent disability, are 21 years of age or under and whose permanent residence is in Ontario. Family income impact on assistance decisions
- Call (905) 852-1799 and ask for a Request for Assistance form. The form may be completed by the child's parent, physician, therapist, social worker, teacher or community liaison.
- <http://www.jenash.org/>

### Jennifer's Rainbow Children's Charity

- Provides financial assistance for families with children who are critically ill
- 1-905-939-0410
- 1-905-939-8013

### Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada

- Provides financial assistance to registered clients
- Maximum allowance of any item is \$2,640
- No funding for requests under \$200
- Client pays \$200 towards requests of \$2,640 and up
- Will cover equipment including mobility devices and accessibility equipment, seating and positioning devices, bathing aids, orthopedic devices
- Approved equipment list: <http://www.muscle.ca/ontario-nunavut/services/equipment-program/>
- 1-416-488-2699
- Toll Free 1-800-567-2873

## Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy

- Provides financial assistance to people of all ages with cerebral palsy in the province of Ontario
- Includes funding for communication and writing aids, enteral feeding, orthotic devices, respiratory equipment, wheelchairs and ambulation aids, home accessibility aids, bathing and washroom aids, electronic aids to daily living
- OFCP Assistive Devices Funding Program Approved List of Equipment for Funding [http://www.ofcp.ca/pdf/adfp/equipment\\_list.pdf](http://www.ofcp.ca/pdf/adfp/equipment_list.pdf)
- For applications and guidelines visit OFCP website or call 416-244-9686 extension 234 or toll free at 1-877-244-9686 extension 234 or email: [adfp@ofcp.on.ca](mailto:adfp@ofcp.on.ca)
- Submissions of applications is September 1 to June 1 annually
- Annual maximum amounts
- Request for financial assistance must be submitted prior to the equipment/items being ordered
- <http://www.ofcp.ca/devices.php>

## **Wish Granting**

### Children's Wish Foundation of Canada

- Children must be 3 years of age up to, but not including 18 years before the time the request is received. They must be legal residents of Canada and have an illness, which is categorized as a high risk, life-threatening condition
- This foundation is dedicated to fulfilling a favourite wish for ill children
- Not eligible if child has received a wish from another wish granting organization
- Contact Ontario Chapter at 1-905-427-5353
- Email: [on@childrenswish.ca](mailto:on@childrenswish.ca) or visit <http://www.childrenswish.ca>

### Golden Griddle Charities

- The primary objective is to grant the wishes and financial help of terminally ill and severely disabled children
- <http://www.goldengriddleinc.com/>

### Make a Wish Foundation

- Any child aged 3 through, and including 17 years old with a life threatening illness may be eligible for this organization to grant them their wish. Wishes may be to go somewhere, be something, meet someone or have something
- Contact foundation directly at [wishreferrals@makeawish.ca](mailto:wishreferrals@makeawish.ca) or call 1-888-822-9474
- <http://www.makeawish.ca>

### Starlight Children's Foundation Canada

- Wishes are granted to children between the ages of 4-18 who are seriously ill
- 1-416-642-5675
- Toll free 1-800-880-1004
- Application form: <http://www.starlightcanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Starlight-Family-Application-Form4.pdf>

### Sunshine Foundation

- Fulfills dreams for children at the age of 3 up until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday that live with a severe physical disability or life-threatening illness
- Referral form: <http://www.sunshine.ca/sites/default/files/Refer%20a%20Child-2013.pdf>
- <http://www.sunshine.ca> or call toll free at 1-800-461-7935

### A World of Dreams

- Wishes granted to children under 18 with terminal illness or severe disability
- Contact Adrian at 1-800-567-7254 to confirm eligibility



## **In Home Funding/Care**

### Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)

- Contact the Ministry of community and Social Services/Child and Youth Services
- Monthly allowances to assist with extraordinary costs may be available for families caring for a severely disabled child in the home
- Drug and dental coverage is also provided
- Based on family income
- Denise Larouche, Special Agreements Officer 1-807-475-1336

### City of Thunder Bay Social Services

- Income maintenance
- General Welfare and Family Benefits (Supplementary Assistance may be available for consumer cost of special needs items)
- 1-807-766-2111

### Geared to Income Housing- Thunder Bay Housing

- Provided accommodation to qualified applicants
- Eligibility:  
[http://www.tbdssab.ca/Housing/Applying\\_for\\_Social\\_Housing/Eligibility\\_Requirements.htm](http://www.tbdssab.ca/Housing/Applying_for_Social_Housing/Eligibility_Requirements.htm)
- Contact social services 1-807-766-2111

### Special Services at Home Program

- Available for children and adults with a developmental disability and children (under 18 years) with a physical disability- families may receive funding to hire support persons to provide respite, follow through of home therapy programming, support at recreation programs, specialized childcare, and/or homemaking services
- No family income restrictions
- Contact Denise Larouche at 1-807-475-1336

### Wesway- Respite Services

- A local non-profit organization providing support to families of people with special needs by providing short-term care in the home or out of the home
- There is a nominal fee charge- a subsidy can be arranged for those caregivers unable to afford the full service
- 1-807-623-2353
- Toll free at 1-888-623-2353

## **Community Support Services**

### Catholic Family Development Centre

- Provides family services (parent education groups)
- Individual, couple, family counselling
- Fee for service based on a sliding scale
- 1-807-345-7323

### Children's Centre Thunder Bay

- Provides support services and mental health services to children, adolescents and families
- Focuses on assessment, treatment, support, and education to children from birth to 18 years
- 1-807-343-5000

### Dilico Family Care

- Provides preventative, child welfare and counseling to its membership bands residing on and off the reserves within Thunder Bay
- 1-807-623-8511

### Hagi Outreach Program

- Offers independent living and attendant care services to individuals over 18 years living in self-contained apartments in the community
- Vicki Scott, Coordinator, 1-807-345-7181
- 1-807-343-0414

### Parent Assembly for Thunder Bay Handicapped

- Self help group for parents, family and friends of children/young adults with disability
- [www.imaginecanada.ca](http://www.imaginecanada.ca)
- [charityfocus@imaginecanada.ca](mailto:charityfocus@imaginecanada.ca)

### The Easter Seal Society

- Works with children (up to age 19) who have physical disabilities present at birth or as a result of an illness or accident
- Provide funding and support services
- 1-807-345-7622

### Via Vitae Palliative Care Volunteers

- Counseling, support, education and referral for families experiencing terminal illness
- 1-807-343-1624

# How to Ask for Help

## Write a supporting letter

- Provide background information to support request
- Say clearly what you need
- Write a letter if there is no application form

## Section 1: Short Introduction

- Include the date
- Refer to the name of organization/charity
- Briefly introduce reason for letter
- Your relationship to person who is asking for assistance
  - Yourself
  - Your child

## Section 2: Description of your child

- Make it clear and simple
- Avoid medical language
- Include a positive note about your child
  - What does your child like to do?
  - What is your child good at?
  - How this will help your child
    - Participate in things he/she enjoys
    - Encourages child to be more active
    -

### Section 3: What are you asking for and why?

- Funding for: equipment, therapy, modifications, etc.
- Specific name of what is needed
  - Seat for bathtub
  - Button to operate a toy
- Include reference to professional recommendations
- Why is this needed:
  - How will it help?
  - What are the benefits?

### Section 4: How much do you need to pay?

- Include the specific cost
- Is it covered by any other programs?
  - Tell what other sources you have approached
  - Tell if it is not covered by other sources

### Section 5: Your situation now

- How is your situation affecting this expense?
  - Does your family have other major expenses
  - Does your family have more expenses
  - Does your family have to pay for other services
- Note supporting documents you are including
  - Therapist recommendation
  - Estimate
  - Photo

## Section 6: Other things to include

- Photo of your child
- Photo of the equipment
- Copy of the estimate
- Recommendation from a professional
- List other documents you are including

## Section 7: How to contact you

- Tell the best way to contact you
  - Phone number: home and work/cell
  - Email address
  - Return address
  - Time when you can be reached

## Remember to:

- Make a copy of the application
- Use one copy as a rough copy
- Use clear printing or writing
- Use easy to understand language
- Take your time when answering the application questions or writing the letter
- Leave the finished application or letter for a day or so
- Review application/letter (ask someone else to read it over)
- Add more information; use another sheet of paper if needed