

## Vermont Family Network's Family Support Fund

This fund assists families with out-of-pocket medical expenses and unmet respite needs. It is a fund of last resort, meaning insurance and other resources must be explored first.

### ***Eligibility:***

- Vermont residents from birth up to 21 years
- Have a chronic physical, medical, or developmental condition
- Have care needs beyond those required by children generally
- Family income is at or below 500% of the Federal Poverty Line
- Fund does not cover respite or expenses related to a mental health diagnosis

### ***Funding Available:***

**Medically Necessary Supplement Funds** (\$1,500 maximum per year) assist with out-of-pocket expenses considered medically necessary for a child with special health care needs. Examples include specialized equipment, medical supplies, therapies, medical travel, prescriptions, and copays. *Supporting documentation signed by your child's provider is required.*

***To best serve all families, funding is focused on specific needs and does not extend to insurance-eligible expenses, non-evidence-based therapies, or modifications to homes and vehicles.***

**Respite Funds** (\$1,200 maximum per year) provide a planned break for caregivers. To qualify, you cannot currently receive other respite funding (e.g., Family Managed Respite).

***The combined annual maximum a family can apply for is \$1,500 for both funds.***

***Funding is limited and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Individual allocations are determined by the availability of program funds at the time of application.***

### ***How to Apply:***

Contact Diane Bugbee at [Diane.Bugbee@vtn.org](mailto:Diane.Bugbee@vtn.org) or call 802-876-5315. For all requests over \$600, a completed W-9 will be required.

**Processing Time:** typically, 2-3 weeks from receipt of complete documentation. Please call Vermont Family Network and visit [vtn.org](http://vtn.org) for more information about our supports for families, including Education and Coordinated Service Plan support, Parent Match program, Genetic Navigation, and Sibshops-sibling support program.

***This fund is made possible through a grant from the Vermont Department of Health Children with Special Health Needs program.***