



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@vtfn.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 vtfn.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.