

Vermont Family Network's Family Support Fund

The Vermont Family Network Family Support Fund assists families with out-of-pocket medical expenses and with their unmet respite needs. This is a fund of last resort, meaning insurance and other resources would be explored first.

Eligibility

- Vermont residents from birth up to 21 years
- Have a chronic physical, medical, or developmental condition
- Requires health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally
- Children and families who earn at or less than 500% of the Federal Poverty Level

Medically Necessary Supplement Funds assist with out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the child with special health care needs. Families complete an application with VFN staff. Supporting documentation is also required and may include a letter of medical necessity signed by the child's physician. A sample of the things we have paid for includes specialized equipment, medical supplies, therapies, medical travel, medical bills, prescriptions, deductibles and copays, and more. **Families may access up to \$1,500.00 per grant year.** Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org or call 802-876-5315.

Respite Funds assist families unmet respite needs related to parenting children with special health needs. Respite is defined as a planned break for the caregiver. Eligibility includes not receiving respite or flexible family funds from any other organization or designated agency. The caregivers self-identify their needs and create a plan on how they will use the funds. **Families may access up to \$1200.00 per grant year.** Donia.Shirley@vtfn.org or at 802-876-5315.

Families may access a total of \$1500.00 for both Respite and Medically Necessary Funds combined. While completing applications, the family will have an opportunity to learn more about the programs at Vermont Family Network, as well as learn about other community resources. If approved, the family will be notified as soon as possible. For all requests over \$600.00, a completed W-9 will be required.

The Family Support Fund **does not pay** for items or services that could be covered by insurance, therapies that are not evidence-based, or vehicle/ home modifications.

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