



## Funding Guide

For Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities



## Disclaimer

This guide is a free service intended to assist parents of **children and young adults with physical disabilities, communication disorders, developmental delays, and autism spectrum disorders, living primarily in Southwestern Ontario** in obtaining information on various supports that are available. While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, we make no guarantee of any kind with respect to the information included in this guide as to its completeness or accuracy.

Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) is not responsible for any action taken as a result of relying on or using information contained in this guide and in no event shall the Centre be liable for damages resulting from reliance on or use of this information. TVCC also does not endorse or support any specific program or service mentioned in this guide. Users should use their own best judgment regarding the usefulness and accuracy of any information presented.

If you become aware of any inaccuracies we would appreciate being informed. Please send us comments, updates, or questions to our Administrative Assistant at 519-685-8700 ext 53441.

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# Developing a Funding Strategy

Thames Valley Children's Centre has written this guide to assist you in understanding the funding and supports that may be available for your child or for yourself if you are a young adult. We want to help in any way we can to ensure that you are successful in accessing resources in your community.

**Keys to Success:** Access to information and careful planning!

Before you identify a possible source of funding, take the time to outline your needs. The following will help you.

## Planning

### Write a Short Description of Your Child

Present this on a single page. If possible, include name and date of birth of your child.

- Complete address and phone number of the family
- Your child's primary disability
- Time of onset and cause of disability, if appropriate
- Any secondary disabilities
- General family background: parent's occupation, siblings, time in the community

### Write a Description of the Equipment Needed

Describe in detail what you need to purchase. Indicate how the equipment will help. Be as specific as you can about the product, the vendor, and the price range. If possible, obtain a picture of the equipment. If the equipment will need adaptations, describe those as well. Some fund granting organizations may require price quotes, if available.

### Create a List of Potential Donors

Make a list of potential sources of funding. If you plan to conduct a fundraising activity, such as a bake sale, now is the time to decide what you will do and estimate what you might raise.

Next, list other community resources you want to contact, such as local services clubs, local unions, your church, employee groups, or your school's parent council. If possible, estimate what you think these groups would be able to contribute.

External donors appreciate when a family is able to match their gift with a family contribution. For example, one family sold "angel pins" to raise money for a specialized bicycle. The external donor contributed an equal amount as the amount raised by the family. Think in terms of several small fundraisers. You might be surprised by how much money you can raise.

## Action

### Write a Cover Letter

Your letter should be one page that is clear and concise. Introduce yourself and explain why you are contacting the organization or individual, not only in terms of your need but also why you chose to contact this particular group. Include a brief description of your child and his or her needs. If possible, attach a picture of your child and/or the equipment.

### Additional Help

A Social Work team member can be available to active TVCC families to assist with complex funding issues and in completing funding applications.

If you are applying to a government agency such as the Assistive Devices Program (ADP), or a community agency such as the Easter Seals Society, review the application deadlines and requirements carefully and follow the instructions precisely.

Be optimistic. When you have a plan and a goal, you can accomplish more than you think!

## Sample Cover Letter

Date:

Anytown Rotary Club Mr. B.  
Anyone, President 11199  
Some Avenue Anytown, ON  
N6C 4P6

Dear Mr. Anyone:

I am hoping that the Anytown Rotary Club can help my son Brian. Brian was born with Cerebral Palsy, which affects his mobility on both sides of his body. His muscles are very tight and he is able to walk only with the help of a walker. He receives treatment at Thames Valley Children's Centre.

I have attached more detailed information about Brian and our family.

As part of Brian's therapy at TVCC, he has recently been able to borrow a specialized bicycle designed for children like him. You would not believe the remarkable change we've seen in his confidence as he gains some independence by being able to pedal his own bike! He is also developing very important body strength that will aid in his growth and coordination. He has been able to join his friends and family outside for recreation and therapy - a gift that has opened up a whole new world for my son!

We have certainly seen first-hand the benefits of Brian owning a bicycle of his own. After his resource assessment at TVCC, we learned that the bike he needs is about \$1700. None of this cost is covered by our medical insurance. So far, we have raised \$200 through a neighbourhood carnival. I know that the Rotary Club can sometimes fund small grants for families facing our challenges, and I am hoping that you could help us meet the remaining cost.

Any assistance you could offer would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed a photo of the bicycle and a letter from Brian's physician. Please call me at work during the day or at home in the evening if I can provide any other information. I would also be able to join you at one of your meetings if you would like to hear our story in person.

Thank you very much.

Sarah Someone

333 Someplace Drive  
Anytown, ON N6C 4P6  
Home: 123-456-7890  
Work: 123-456-0987

## Possible Sources of Funding

The remainder of this guide includes information about various groups and organizations that may be able to provide you with funding or assist in the funding process. Included is a description of the organizations as well as contact information.

It is suggested that you review the guide and mark those organizations that you feel can best help to meet your needs. Before sending a letter, contact the organization to confirm the contact name, application procedure, deadlines, and any other special instructions. Please note that some organizations have limited funds and there is no guarantee that funding will always be available.

### Additional Information

Some organizations may require additional information. Be prepared to submit the following if requested:

- A letter of diagnosis about the child's disability from a physician
- A letter from a secondary party (social worker, physical therapist, etc.)
- Documentation confirming the income of the child's guardian(s)
- Any funds that the family has secured or seeking

NOTE: Do not order and pay for a piece of equipment before you acquire the funding.



# General Funding

## Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)

This is a monthly allowance for disabled children. It is intended to help compensate for expenses beyond those of raising an able-bodied child. These include:

**Living Expenses:** Extraordinary transportation, accommodation and meal costs, specialized childcare, clothing, linen and laundry, diapers, special diet, special shoes.

**Medical Expenses:** Equipment for hearing (e.g., phonic ear, watch master, portable telephone amplifier); visual (e.g., monocular, bright field magnifier); speech (e.g., speech-generating devices), drug costs, medical/surgical supplies, dental costs.

**Educational and Social Expenditures:** Special learning/development equipment (e.g., educational toys, books, tapes, batteries); specialized day care; special education; special summer camp fees; parental relief.

Application forms can be obtained directly from the government of Ontario website or completed online.

Website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/assistance-children-severe-disabilities-program>

Contact: Ministry of Children and Youth Services  
South West Region  
217 York Street, Suite 203  
P.O. Box 5217  
London, ON N6A 5R1  
Ph: 519-438-5111 or 1-800-265-4197  
Fax: 519-672-9510

## Child Care Expenses Deduction

You or your spouse or common-law partner may have paid for someone to look after your child who is under 16 years of age or has a mental or physical disability. Generally, the spouse or common-law partner with the lower net income can claim these expenses, but only if the expenses were paid so one of you could earn income, go to school, or conduct research. For more information visit the website provided or call the toll free number.

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/line-21400-child-care-expenses.html>

Contact: Canada Revenue Agency London Office  
451 Talbot Street London ON N6A 5E5

Ph: 1-800-959-8281  
TTY: 1-800-665-0354

## DEBRA Foundation

DEBRA Canada is a voluntary, registered non-profit organization providing support to families affected by Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

Their medical assistance fund (MAF) provides up to \$5000 per family per year in financial assistance for medical related expenses that are not covered by other health assistance plans. It can help pay for medical supplies, comfort aids, or allow for increased independence related to the care of EB. Each request must serve a beneficial medical purpose for the recipient and/or improve their quality of life.

To access funding, recipients must be a member of DEBRA Canada. Membership is *free* and can be applied for at the time of a MAF application. Applications can be obtained on their website. Completed applications can be mailed or emailed to the contact information below.

Website: <https://debracanada.org/pages/medical-funding>

Contact: DEBRA Canada, ATTN: Medical Assistance Fund Committee  
1500 Upper Middle Rd, Unit #3  
PO Box 76035  
Oakville, ON L6M 3H5  
Ph (Toll Free): 1-800-313-3012  
[ehoyos@debracanada.org](mailto:ehoyos@debracanada.org)

## Direct Funding Program

Direct Funding, through the Ontario Ministry of Health, enables adults (over the age of 16) with a physical disability to become employers of their own attendants. Attendants assist with routine activities of living, such as dressing, grooming, and bathing. Contact the Independent Living Centre in London for more information.

Website: <https://www.ilcla.ca/direct-funding/>

Contact: **Independent Living Centre**  
London and Area  
433 King Street, Suite 101  
London, ON N6B 3P3  
Ph: 519-660-4667 Fax: 519-660-6818  
[info@ilcla.ca](mailto:info@ilcla.ca)

## Disability Tax Credit T2201

This is a non-refundable tax credit for families caring for a child under 18 with a disability. It can be used to reduce the amount of income tax you have to pay. The Disability Tax Credit can also provide an additional “Disability Amount” to the Child Tax Benefit for families who receive it. If you are making a new application for this amount, you have to file a completed T2201 Form-Disability Tax Credit Certificate. If you have already qualified, do not file another form. For more information, contact Canada Customs and Revenue Agency's website or phone using their toll free number.

Website: [www.cra.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201](http://www.cra.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201)

Contact: Canada Revenue Agency  
London Office  
451 Talbot Street  
London ON N6A 5E5  
Ph: 1-800-959-8281  
TTY: 1-800-665-0354

## Disability Travel Card

The Disability Travel card is identification for a person with a permanent disability, which will permit an adult attendant to travel at a reduced fare with the person with a permanent disability. The Disability Travel Card holder pays a regular ticket price. The person with a disability must apply to Easter Seals/March of Dimes National Council by filling out an application. Applications are available on the website provided or contact the Easter Seals Society.

Website: <https://easterseals.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Disability-Travel-Card-Application-Form-EN.pdf>

Contact: The Easter Seals Society  
974 Dearness Drive  
London, ON N6E 2R8  
Ph: 519-432-9669 or 1-888-278-7797

## Jordan's Principle

Jordan's Principle is available to all First Nations children in Canada to make sure that they can access the products, services, and supports they need. Under Jordan's Principle, families can access funding and help with a variety of health, social and educational needs.

Examples of what has been funded under Jordan's Principle include:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility aids                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair ramps               | <input type="checkbox"/> Respite care  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health services         | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized school transportation                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to appointments | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistive technology  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized hearing aids       |  |

Each request is unique. It is important to confirm coverage in advance with the regional representative for Jordan's Principle.

For more information or to begin the funding request process, use the contact information below.

Website: [www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/jordans-principle/submit-request-under-jordans-principle-step-1.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/jordans-principle/submit-request-under-jordans-principle-step-1.html)

Contact: Regional representatives (Ontario)  
Ph: 613-619-1833  
TTY: 1-866-553-0554

Jordan's Principle Call Centre: 1-855-572-4453  
 (operates 24 hours day, 7 days a week)  
[aadnc.infopubs.aandc@canada.ca](mailto:aadnc.infopubs.aandc@canada.ca)

## Medical Expense Tax Credit

The medical expense tax credit provides tax relief for individuals. The medical expense tax credit applies to individuals who have sustained significant medical expenses for themselves or their dependents. Please visit the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency's website for further information and to download an application form.

Website: [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/technical-information/income-tax/income-tax-folios-index/series-1-individuals/folio-1-health-medical/income-tax-folio-s1-f1-c1-medical-expense-tax-credit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/technical-information/income-tax/income-tax-folios-index/series-1-individuals/folio-1-health-medical/income-tax-folio-s1-f1-c1-medical-expense-tax-credit.html)

Contact: Canada Revenue Agency London Office

451 Talbot Street  
 London, ON N6A 5E5  
 Ph: 1-800-959-8281  
 TTY: 1-800-665-0354

## Personal Insurance Company

Contact your personal insurance company to inquire about assistance for the cost of equipment not covered by the Assistive Devices Program. Most other funding sources will request that you investigate this with your personal insurance first.

## Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities (RRAP-D) On-Reserve

This program provides financial assistance to First Nations members with a disability who need to make modifications to their home. Financial support is available for a wide range of modifications including ramps, handrails, bath lifts, fire alarms, and cues for doorbells. You can apply for support if you live on-reserve and meet the income requirements. Visit the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website for more information.

Website: [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/developing-and-renovating/funding-opportunities/on-reserve-renovation-programs/residential-rehabilitation-assistance-program/home-modifications-for-persons-with-disabilities](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/developing-and-renovating/funding-opportunities/on-reserve-renovation-programs/residential-rehabilitation-assistance-program/home-modifications-for-persons-with-disabilities)

Contact: Ph: 1-800-668-2642  
[contactcentre@cmhc.ca](mailto:contactcentre@cmhc.ca)

## Travel Expenses

In some circumstances you may be eligible to claim medical expenses on your income tax benefit return. This can include travel expenses and medical supplies. For more information call the automated T.I.P.S. service of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency or visit the website below.

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/rc4065/medical-expenses.html>

Contact: Canada Revenue Agency  
Ph: 1-800-959-8281 or  
Tax Information Phone Service (TIPS): 1-800-267-6999

## War Amps of Canada

The War Amps of Canada provides financial assistance to child amputees and their families for artificial limbs, recreational devices, and travel to prosthetic facilities. Contact the CHAMP program for further information.

Website: [www.waramps.ca/ways-we-help/child-amputees/#financial-assistance](http://www.waramps.ca/ways-we-help/child-amputees/#financial-assistance)

Contact: The War Amps of Canada – Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program  
2827 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1V 0C4  
Toll Free: 1-800-465-2677  
Ottawa: 613-731-3821  
Fax: 613-731-3234  
[communications@waramps.ca](mailto:communications@waramps.ca)

# Equipment

## A Child's Voice Foundation

A Child's Voice Foundation is a registered charity, founded with the purpose of enhancing the physical and emotional well-being of any child who is physically or mentally challenged and/or disadvantaged. Through their *Kids Life Line* program, they have been able to provide one-time fulfillment to families in need, wigs for young cancer patients, and even food and clothing for children whose families are experiencing financial hardship. For application information, call the foundation or visit their website.

Website: [www.achildsvoicefoundation.com](http://www.achildsvoicefoundation.com)

Contact: A Child's Voice Foundation  
 3034 Palstan Road, Suite 301 Mississauga, ON L4Y 2Z6  
 Ph: 905-275-3434 or 1-888-837-3352  
 Fax: 905-275-3139  
[admin@acvf.ca](mailto:admin@acvf.ca)

## Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

The objective of the ADP is to financially assist Ontario residents with long-term physical disabilities to obtain basic, competitively priced, and personalized assistive devices appropriate for the individual's needs and essential for independent living. ADP covers over 8,000 separate pieces of equipment and supplies within the following categories:

- Prosthetic Devices
- Wheelchairs, mobility aids and specialized seating systems
- Enteral feeding supplies
- Monitors and test strips for insulin-dependent diabetics (through an agreement with the Canadian Diabetes Association)
- Hearing aids
- Insulin pumps and supplies
- Respiratory equipment
- Orthotic devices (braces)
- Pressure modification devices for burns and lymphedema (garments and pumps)
- Visual and communication aids
- Home oxygen therapy (concentrators, cylinders, liquid systems)

ADP will cover up to 75% of the cost of the equipment. Initial access is often through a medical specialist or general practitioner who must authorize the devices and specific needs of the individual. Application forms are submitted by the specialist. Once the application is reviewed by ADP, the approval or denial will be sent to both the caregiver and the specialist.

Website: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/adp/](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/adp/)

Contact: Ministry of Health and Long-term Care 5700 Yonge Street, 7th Floor  
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5  
Ph: 416-327-8804 or 1-800-268-6021  
Fax: 416-327-8192  
[adp@ontario.ca](mailto:adp@ontario.ca)

## Bella Bumba's Mobility Chairs

Bella Bumba's is a charity that makes low-cost mobility devices for young children (4 or 5 years old) with mobility challenges due to Spina Bifida or other disabilities. For more information, visit their Facebook page.

Website: [www.facebook.com/bellasbumbas/](http://www.facebook.com/bellasbumbas/)

## Easter Seals Ontario

Easter Seals provides financial assistance to families of children and young adults with physical disabilities. The Society awards over \$2 million in financial assistance each year. The Society acts as a third party funder and as such has no role in prescribing, recommending equipment, selecting a vendor/contractor or in the relationship between the parent and the vendor. Funding is currently available between January 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> or until all funds are gone.

### The Easter Seals Society provides funding for:

- Accessibility/activities for daily living equipment (ramps, porch lifts, van lifts); bath/toilet aids (shower chair, bath chair, grab bars)
- Communication devices (computers for basic communication for children who cannot talk)
- Mobility aids (wheelchairs, walkers)
- Orthotics (braces, splints)
- Transportation (van tie downs)
- Camps (Easter Seals camping fees, individual recreational experience)

Easter Seals also oversees the "**Incontinence Supplies Grant Program for Children and Youth with Disabilities**" (Assistive Devices Program) - diapers, catheters, reusable garments, liners and enema supplies. You must register with the Easter Seal Society to receive an application.



Contact the society to register.

Website: <https://services.easterseals.org/>

Contact: The Easter Seals Society  
974 Dearness Drive  
London, ON N6E 2R8  
Ph: 519-432-9669 or 1-888-278-7797

## GST/HST Specially Equipped Motor Vehicle Rebate Program

You can apply to claim a motor vehicle rebate if you paid GST/HST in the purchase of a qualified motor vehicle or if you paid GST/HST in a modification service performed on your motor vehicle. Applications are available on the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency website or can be ordered by telephone.

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/gst518.html>

Contact: Canada Revenue Agency London Office  
451 Talbot Street  
London, ON N6A 5E5  
Ph: 1-800-959-8281  
TTY: 1-800-665-0354  
Fax: 519-645-4029

## Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation

The mandate of this foundation is to assist seriously ill children and their families with special treatment needs, medical expenses, and financial assistance. The foundation requests that you investigate all other funding options before making a request. Call the foundation for application information.

Website: <https://jenash.org/>

Contact: Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation  
RR #1 10800 Concession 5 Uxbridge, ON L9L 1R1  
Ph: 905-852-1799 Ext. 32  
Fax: 905-852-0124  
[generalmail@jenash.org](mailto:generalmail@jenash.org)

## Muscular Dystrophy Canada

The MDAC equipment program helps individuals obtain a wide range of assistive devices to aid with mobility, breathing, sitting and positioning, accessibility, communications, and sleeping. In other circumstances, the program provides a loan of basic equipment and devices including scooters and wheelchairs. Requests must be submitted for approval before purchasing the equipment. If a request is made for a device that MDAC does not cover, MDAC staff may be able to suggest other sources of funding. For more information, contact the London Region Chapter.

Website: <https://muscle.ca/>

Contact: [londonchapter@muscle.ca](mailto:londonchapter@muscle.ca)  
 Fiona Watson  
 Muscular Dystrophy Canada  
 toll free 1-800-567-2873 ext 1160

MaryAnne Powell  
 Muscular Dystrophy Canada  
 toll free 1-800-567-2873 ext 1118

## Ontario March of Dimes

Ontario March of Dimes offers a variety of programs and services including:

- Assistive Devices Program – financial assistance for device repair and equipment purchase. Devices include wheelchairs, braces, mobility aids, and communication aids for non-speaking adults
- Home and Vehicle Modification Program – financial assistance to eligible Ontario residents with disabilities who require modifications to their home or vehicle
- Recycled Rental Equipment Program – short and long-term rentals utilizing high quality previously owned equipment

Contact the provincial office or Southwest March of Dimes office for further information.

Website: [www.marchofdimes.ca](http://www.marchofdimes.ca)

Contact: Ontario March of Dimes Provincial Office  
 10 Overlea Boulevard Toronto, ON M4H 1A4  
 Ph: 1-800-263-3463  
 Fax: (416) 425-1920  
[info@dimes.on.ca](mailto:info@dimes.on.ca)

Ontario March of Dimes  
South West Region  
920 Commissioners Road East  
London, ON N5Z 3J1  
Ph: 519-642-3999 or 1-866-496-8603  
Fax: 519-642-7665

## Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy Assistive Devices Funding Program

The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy Assistive Devices Funding Program is available to persons with cerebral palsy in the province of Ontario and who have a valid Ontario Health Card. The level of funding assistance may vary based on the cost of the item and the availability of Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy funds at the time the request is received. The request for financial assistance must be submitted prior to the equipment or item being ordered and/or purchased. Labour, installation, delivery, therapy, or assessment costs are not funded. Maximum funding is up to \$2,500.00 per year per person (not to exceed 25% of total cost per item). The application period for submission of applications will be September 10 to June 1 annually.

The following must accompany the completed application:

- Copy of ADP approval
- Health professionals current authorization
- 2 price quotes from Ontario vendors
- Other sources of funding that have been accessed or denied

For more information and an application form please visit the website below or contact the federation.

Website: [www.ofcp.ca/devices.php](http://www.ofcp.ca/devices.php)

Contact: OFCP Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy Assistive Devices Funding Program  
1630 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 104 Toronto, ON M6L 1C5  
Biswatie Oodal, Executive Assistant  
Ph: 416-244-9686 ext 221  
[adfp@ofcp.ca](mailto:adfp@ofcp.ca) or [biswatie@ofcp.ca](mailto:biswatie@ofcp.ca)

## Retail Sales Tax Exemption

Some household appliances, mobility aids, communication equipment, protective and pain-relieving devices are Retail Sales Tax exempt when designed solely for the use by those with disabilities. Contact the Ontario Ministry of Finance Tax Office or call the TAX FAX phone line for more information.

Website: [www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/forms/rst/](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/forms/rst/)

Contact: Ontario Ministry of Finance Tax Office  
Ph: 1-866-ONT-TAXS (1-866-668-8297)

# Medical Supplies

## Home Oxygen Program

The Home Oxygen Program pays for long-term oxygen therapy and related equipment and supplies for eligible Ontario residents who need them. Your doctor must complete a Home Oxygen Program application form. Visit the program's website or call the toll free number for more information.

Website: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/adp/publications/oxygen.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/adp/publications/oxygen.aspx)

Contact: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
Assistive Devices Program  
7th Floor, 5700 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M2M 4K5  
Toronto: 416-327-8804  
Toll Free: 1-800-268-6021  
TTY: 416-327-4282  
TTY: 1-800-387-5559  
Fax: 416-327-8192  
[adp@ontario.ca](mailto:adp@ontario.ca)

## Trillium Drug Program

If you or your family spends a large part of your after-tax income (4% or more) on prescription drug costs, the Trillium Drug Program may help cover the cost. Trillium application kits are available at your local pharmacy, online, or by calling the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's toll free number.

Website: [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)

Contact: Call Service Ontario between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
Ph: 1-866-532-3161  
TTY: 1-800-387-5559

# Support Services

## Circle of Care

Circle of Care services are funded through various sources: Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN); provincial and/or municipal government funding; grants; charitable donations; and fees for service. Some services are provided on a subsidized basis to eligible persons, or at no charge. Where you or your family member may be eligible for publicly funded service (for instance, through the LHIN) or private insurance coverage, Circle of Care staff will ensure referral and coordination of service with the appropriate organization. To persons of every age and circumstance, Circle of Care offers a broad range of health and home support service options to improve well-being, independence and quality of life, and to offer an alternative to institutional care. Circle of Care is a community-based, charitable organization that has been serving Toronto and area residents since 1971. You can contact the organization for more information, Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Friday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Website: [www.circleofcare.com](http://www.circleofcare.com)

Contact: Circle of Care  
4211 Yonge Street, 4th Floor Toronto, Ontario M2P 2A9  
Ph: 416-635-2860  
Fax: 416-6351692  
[info@circleofcare.com](mailto:info@circleofcare.com)

## National Service Dogs (NSD)

National Service Dogs is a non-profit charity that trains assistance dogs for children with disabilities. NSD dogs are trained to assist people with:

**Autism** Clients as young as five have been paired with dogs. Dogs can be trained to prevent children from running into the street, leaving the home or classroom without supervision. Service dogs also encourage socialization.

**Physical Disabilities** Dogs are trained to assist children with lifelong physical challenges such as Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis as well as other disabilities. Dogs may be able to pull wheelchairs, open doors, and retrieve dropped items.

**Blindness** Dogs are used to guide blind or visually impaired children as well as children with dual disabilities such as visual impairment, deafness, seizure disorders, and physical disabilities. Guide Dogs can help lead a person safely.

To apply for a dog, write a one-page letter describing what you and your child's life is like and

how you think a service dog would help. Once the letter is received, NSD will recommend alternatives or send an application for a dog. The waiting list for a dog is generally two years. The cost of a dog is a one-time fee of \$125 but the new owner is responsible for all food and veterinary costs. Dog recipients are expected to give back to NSD by assisting in fund raising events. Please visit the NSD website to fill out their online application form and request more information.

Website: [www.nsd.on.ca](http://www.nsd.on.ca)

Contact: 1286 Cedar Creek Road,  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S5  
Ph: 519-623-4188  
Fax: 519-623-9997  
[info@nsd.on.ca](mailto:info@nsd.on.ca)

## Safehaven Project for Community Living

Founded in 1989, the Safehaven Project for Community Living is a not for profit organization dedicated to providing community residential alternatives and respite programs for children and young adults who have both a physical and developmental disability, are dependent for all or most activities and require care and monitoring on a 24-hour basis. An appointment can be made by contacting the organization.

Website: [www.safehaven.to/about-us/welcome-to-safehaven/](http://www.safehaven.to/about-us/welcome-to-safehaven/)

Contact: Safehaven Project for Community Living  
1173 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON M6H1M9  
Ph: 416-535-8525  
Fax: 416-535-9782  
[admin@safehaven.to](mailto:admin@safehaven.to)

## Sean Ryan Children's Fund

The Sean Ryan Children's Fund provides financial assistance for respite nursing care only. It is available for families of chronically ill or disabled children. The application is submitted via telephone from a professional (family doctor, social worker, LHIN, etc.).

Contact: 7 Briarwood Avenue  
Mississauga, ON L5G 3N4  
Carol Ann and Steve Ryan  
Ph: 905-271-9232  
Fax: 905-271-9232

## Special Services at Home Program

Special Services at Home funding are for families who are caring for a child with a developmental and/or physical disability. Respite enhances the primary caregiver's capacity to provide care for the child with a disability living at home through the provision of indirect assistance. Indirect assistance can help provide relief to the primary caregiver so that they may take some time away from caregiving, or from one or more of their other responsibilities such as cooking, housekeeping, and grocery shopping. Applications are to be filled out through VON in London and Middlesex.

Website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/special-services-home>

Contact: Central Region office for information.  
Please call to schedule an appointment to apply:  
VON (London) 519-659-2273  
VON (Middlesex – Strathroy) 519-245-3164  
VON (Elgin – St. Thomas) 519-637-6408  
Elgin Respite Network - St. Thomas/Elgin, 519-631-8012 ext 623  
Family Services Perth-Huron - Perth/Huron, 519-273-1020  
Family Respite Services - Windsor/Essex, 519-972-9688  
Family Counselling Centre - Sarnia/Lambton, 519-336-0120  
Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services - Bruce/Grey, 519-371-4773  
Oxford/Elgin Child and Youth Centre - Oxford, 519-539-0463



# Wish Granting Organizations

## The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada is a federally chartered, non-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling a favorite wish for children afflicted with a high risk, life-threatening illness. Arranging a trip to some far away destination, providing a customized computer for a child with special needs, tracking down a favorite celebrity, or simply finding exactly the right puppy, all are given equal care and consideration. Children are eligible from three years of age and over but must be under the age of 18 years at 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. Referrals can be made through a healthcare professional or family; but the wish must be communicated by the parents or legal guardians to the foundation directly. Eligibility is determined by contacting the treating physician for a confirmation of diagnosis. The physician must confirm the child is able to travel. Contact the Ontario Chapter to refer a child.

Website: [www.childrenswish.ca](http://www.childrenswish.ca)

Contact: The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada  
Ontario Chapter  
360 - 1101 Kingston Road  
Pickering, ON L1V 1B5  
Ph: 905-427-5353 or 1-800-267-9474  
Fax: 905-427-0536  
[on@childrenswish.ca](mailto:on@childrenswish.ca)

## Starlight Children's Foundation

Starlight Children's Foundation is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for seriously ill children and their families. Working with more than 1000 hospitals, the Foundation provides both in-hospital and outpatient programs and services. The foundation addresses the needs of seriously ill children and their families through six core programs, some directed specifically to the hospital environment, others designed to support a child's eventual return to home and daily routine. Understanding that when a child is sick the whole family suffers, their programs always incorporate the entire family. For more information call or email the foundation.

Website: [www.starlightcanada.org](http://www.starlightcanada.org)

Contact: Starlight Children's Foundation Canada  
200 Consumers Road, Suite 809 Toronto, ON M2J 4R4  
Ph: 416-642-5675  
Toll Free: 1-800-880-1004

Fax: 416-642-5667  
[info@starlightcanada.org](mailto:info@starlightcanada.org)

## Sunshine Foundation

The Sunshine Foundation can fulfill individual dreams all year round for children living in Canada. To bring a dream to a child, the national office staff and volunteers in London Ontario must review a formal request. There are four criteria for eligibility. The child must:

- Be 3-19 years of age (not yet turned 20) and have at least the cognitive ability of a three-year-old
- Have a severe physical disability or a life-threatening illness
- Be able to formulate his or her dream (this must be the dream of the child) and communicate the dream with or without technical assistance
- Have not already received a dream or wish from a similar organization (however may have participated on a Sunshine Dreamlift)

Note: The Sunshine Foundation has currently paused on accepting new referrals for individual dreams until the current approved dreams have been completed. Please contact them directly for more information.

Website: [www.sunshine.ca](http://www.sunshine.ca)

Contact: The Sunshine Foundation of Canada  
 300 Wellington Street, Suite 100  
 London, ON N6B 2L5  
 Ph: 519-642-0990 or 1-800-461-7935  
 Fax: 519-642-1201 or 1-800-461-7475  
[info@sunshine.ca](mailto:info@sunshine.ca)

## A World of Dreams

This foundation grants dreams to children across Canada under the age of 18 who are terminally, critically, or chronically ill. Parents of the child can call, mail or email their request. Contact the foundation for more information.

Website: [www.montrealfamilies.ca/Montreal-Families/Directories/Family-Services/index.php/name/A-World-of-Dreams-Foundation-Canada/listing/36700/](http://www.montrealfamilies.ca/Montreal-Families/Directories/Family-Services/index.php/name/A-World-of-Dreams-Foundation-Canada/listing/36700/)

Contact: 5764 Monkland Avenue, Suite 118  
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4A 1E9  
 Ph: 514-487-8881  
 Fax: 514-487-4420  
[info@montrealfamilies.ca](mailto:info@montrealfamilies.ca)

# Post-Secondary Education

## Aird Scholarship

This scholarship is intended to help students with physical disabilities to study full time at a recognized Ontario postsecondary institution. It is hoped that the award will encourage a special talent of lifelong interest. The scholarship is granted each year to two applicants who demonstrate outstanding scholastic achievement, motivation, and initiative. Each successful applicant receives \$2,500. The application is available at the website provided.

Website: [stage.osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/TCONT003457.html](https://stage.osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/TCONT003457.html)

Contact: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Student Support Branch  
189 Red River Road, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 4500 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6G9  
Ph: 807-343-7257  
TTY: 1-800-465-3958  
Fax: 416-325-6348

## Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD)

This bursary is for full-time and part-time students with either permanent or temporary disabilities who have disability-related educational costs for services or equipment that are not covered by another agency or service and are required for postsecondary participation. The amount of aid is up to \$2,000 per academic year.

Website: <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRDR019233.html>

Contact: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Student Support Branch  
189 Red River Road, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 4500 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6G9  
Ph: 807-343-7257  
TTY: 1-800-465-3958  
Fax: 416-325-6348

## Canada Student Grant for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (CSG-PDSE)

This grant is for students enrolled in a full-time or part-time program who self-identify as having a permanent disability. For the purposes of this grant, a permanent disability is defined as a functional limitation that is caused by a physical or mental impairment that restricts your ability to perform the daily activities necessary to participate in studies at a postsecondary level or in the labour force, and that is expected to remain with you for your life. The amount of aid is up to \$8,000 per academic year.

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/education/grants/disabilities.html>

Contact: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Student Support Branch  
189 Red River Road, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 4500 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6G9  
Ph: 807-343-7257  
TTY: 1-800-465-3958  
Fax: 416-325-6348

## Severe Permanent Disability Benefit

This benefit is for borrowers in repayment with severe permanent disabilities. It is loan forgiveness for student loans. To apply, contact the National Student Loan Service Centre and ask to have your call forwarded to the Canada Student Loans Program. The Canada Student Loans Program administers the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit on Ontario's behalf. If you are in repayment and have a permanent disability that does not meet the definition of a severe permanent disability, you may be eligible to apply for repayment assistance through the Repayment Assistance Plan. The Repayment Assistance Plan helps borrowers with permanent disabilities pay off their loans in ten years.

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/grants-loans/repay/assistance/severe-disability.html>

Contact: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Student Support Branch  
189 Red River Road, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 4500 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6G9  
Ph: 807-343-7257  
TTY: 1-800-465-3958  
Fax: 416-325-6348

## Part-Time Student Loans

This program provides loans and grants. Government student loans are based on your assessed financial need. Qualified part-time students in Canada could get up to \$10,000 in federal loans. In addition, part-time student grants are also available, including: up to \$1,200 per year for part-time students from low-income families; \$40 per week of studies if you have 1 or 2 children under the age of 12 (or a dependent with a permanent disability who is 12 or older); and \$60 per week of studies if you have 3 or more children under the age of 12 (or a dependent with a permanent disability who is 12 or older).

Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/education/grants/disabilities.html>

Contact: Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities  
Student Support Branch  
189 Red River Road, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 4500 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6G9  
Ph: 807-343-7257  
TTY: 1-800-465-3958  
Fax: 416-325-6348

## Justin Eves Foundation - Minds in Motion Award

The primary goal of the Justin Eves Foundation is to assist post-secondary students with their education through scholarships. Students may apply for assistance for up to two years of their course of study. Applications are available on the website. Call or email the foundation for more information.

Website: <https://www.justinevesfoundation.org/>

Contact: Justin Eves Foundation  
8111 Jane Street, Unit 1 Vaughan, ON L4K 4L7  
Ph: 416-586-0085  
Fax: 416-586-0050

# Service Clubs

## Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE)

The mission of IODE is to improve the quality of life for children, youth and those in need, through educational, social service and citizenship programs. To submit requests for funding contact your local chapter. Your local chapter can be found by visiting the website and then click on the "Chapters" link or by calling the National Office.

### National Chapter:

Website: [www.iode.ca](http://www.iode.ca)

Contact: **IODE Canada**  
 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 219  
 Toronto, ON M4R 1B9  
 Ph: 416-487- 4416  
 Toll Free: 1-866-827-7428  
 Fax: 416-487-4417  
[iodecanada@bellnet.ca](mailto:iodecanada@bellnet.ca)

### Provincial Chapter:

Website: [www.iodeontario.ca](http://www.iodeontario.ca)

Contact: IODE Ontario  
 45 Frid Street, Suite 9  
 Hamilton, ON L8P 4M3  
 Ph: 905-522-9537  
 Fax: 905-522-3637  
[iodeontario@bellnet.ca](mailto:iodeontario@bellnet.ca)

## Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Canada

Kin Canada Bursaries is a program of the Hal Rogers Endowment Fund, supported by Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin clubs across the country. Each year, \$1,000 bursaries are awarded to successful Canadian applicants who are pursuing post-secondary education at a recognized university, community college, technical institute, and other schools for advanced education.

Website: [www.kincanada.ca](http://www.kincanada.ca)

Contact: Kin Canada National Offices  
 1920 Rogers Drive, Box 3460  
 Cambridge, ON N3H 5C6

Ph: 800-742-5546  
Fax: 519-650-1091  
[kinhq@kincanada.ca](mailto:kinhq@kincanada.ca)

## Kiwanis Clubs

Kiwanis International is a thriving organization of service and community-minded individuals who support children and young adults around the world. Service projects address other needs within the community, such as working to stop substance abuse, helping the elderly, promoting literacy, supporting youth sports and recreation, responding to disasters, and supporting specific persons in need. Kiwanis Clubs generally award funding to charitable organizations but have been known to help individuals from time to time. Contact the club in your area to ask about application procedures.

Website: [www.forestcitykiwanis.ca/](http://www.forestcitykiwanis.ca/)

Contact: Kiwanis Club of Forest City London  
P.O Box 312, Station B  
London, ON N6A 4W1

## Lions Clubs

Since 1917, Lions clubs have offered people the opportunity to give something back to their communities. Lions clubs have always embraced those committed to building a brighter future for their community. Contact the Lions Club in your area to inquire about funding requests. A club locator is provided on their website.

Website: [www.londoncentrallionsclub.org/](http://www.londoncentrallionsclub.org/)

Contact: London Central Lions Club  
PO Box 24121, RPO Westown London, ON N6H 5C4  
Ph: 519-679-0606

## Masonic Foundation of Ontario

The provincial clubs' mandate is to receive, maintain, manage, control and use donations exclusively for charitable purposes within the Province of Ontario. To apply for funding, send a letter of proposal to the Grand Lodge in Ontario and a selection committee will review the request.

Website: [www.masonicfoundation.on.ca](http://www.masonicfoundation.on.ca)

Contact: Masonic Foundation of Ontario  
363 King Street West

Hamilton, ON L8P 1B4  
Ph: 905-527-9105  
Fax: 905-527-8859  
[mel\\_duke@masonicfoundation.on.ca](mailto:mel_duke@masonicfoundation.on.ca)

## Mocha Shriners

The Shrine of North America is an international fraternity of approximately 500,000 members throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Panama. The Shrine's official philanthropy is Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals that provide expert, no-cost orthopedic and burn care to children under 18. The Mocha Shriners of London will accept written requests for individual funding for specialized equipment for children up to the age of 18. Send the written request of care to the president.

Website: <https://www.shrinersinternational.org/en/chapters/mocha-shriners>

Contact: Mocha Shriners c/o the President  
468 Colborne Street London, ON N6B 2T3  
Ph: 519-672-1391  
Fax: 519-672-7723  
[mochashriners@rogers.com](mailto:mochashriners@rogers.com)

## Ontario State Office Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus has become the largest lay organization in the Catholic Church. The Order continues to break all previous records for charitable contributions and volunteer service. In the past decade, the Knights donated nearly \$1 billion to numerous charitable causes and nearly 400 million hours of volunteer service.

Requests for funding must be made in writing. Requests should be sent to the Ontario State Council or to your local council. To find the council in your area, contact the Ontario State Council.

Website: [www.ontariokofc.ca/about-us/](http://www.ontariokofc.ca/about-us/)

Contact: Ontario State Office  
393 Rymal Road West, Suite 201  
Hamilton, ON, L9B 1V2  
Ph: 905-388-2731 or 1-800-759-0959  
Fax: 905-388-8738  
[stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca)



## Ontario State Knights of Columbus Bursary Program

The Ontario State Chaplains Bursary program was established to award to five (5) successful applicants each year a bursary of \$1,000.00 each. This program provides a bursary to assist Knights and members of their families entering the first year of a post-secondary education. Candidates who are eligible for an Ontario Knights of Columbus Bursary are:

- A member of the Knights of Columbus of Ontario in good standing
- The wife, son or daughter of a member in good standing
- The wife, son or daughter of a deceased member in good standing at the time of death
- A grandchild who is the legal ward of a member in good standing
- Applications must be submitted by May 1 of the current year. Schools and individuals may reproduce the application form or download it through the website.

Although the applicant's marks are important and taken into consideration, it is important to note that in many cases where an applicant is successful, it is based on their need. The bursary recipients will be announced by the end of June of the current year.

Website: [www.ontariokofc.ca/about-us/](http://www.ontariokofc.ca/about-us/)

Contact: Ontario State Office Knights of Columbus  
393 Rymal Road West, Suite 201  
Hamilton, ON L9B 1V2  
Ph: 905-388-2731  
Toll Free: 1-800-759-0959  
Fax: 905-388-8738  
[stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca](mailto:stateoffice@ontariokofc.ca)

## Optimist International of Canada

Optimist Clubs conduct positive service projects aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects each year, serving six million young people. Optimists also spend \$78 million on their communities annually. To find the Optimist Club in your area, visit their website and click on the "Contact Us" link followed by the "Contact an Optimist Club" link.

Website: <https://www.optimist.org/>

Contact: Optimist International of Canada  
5205 Metropolitan Boulevard East, Suite 200  
Montreal, QC, H1R 1Z7  
Ph: 514-593-4401 or 1-800-363-7151  
Fax: 514-721-1104  
Byron, 519-641-4663

Carling Heights, 519-433-4850  
Oakridge, 519-641-8832

## Rotary International

The main objective of Rotary is service: in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. Contact the Rotary Club in your area to inquire about funding requests. You can search for the nearest Club location on their website.

Website: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Contact: Rotary Club  
London Convention Centre  
300 York Street  
London, ON N6B 1P8

Rotary Club  
Yuk Yuk's Dining Hall, Western Fair Grounds  
900 King Street  
London, ON N5W 3V9

Rotary Club  
Hellenic Centre,  
133 Southdale Road West  
London, ON N6J 2J2

## Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Branches and services in the Northwestern area of the Province are handled by the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Command. Legions sponsor sports, youth programs, seniors programs, as well as supporting other organizations both financially and by supplying meeting rooms and halls for events. To find the branch in your area, visit their website and use the "Branch Site" link.

Website: [www.legion.ca](http://www.legion.ca)

Contact: The Royal Canadian Legion  
Dominion Command 86  
Aird Place  
Ottawa ON, K2L 0A1

Ph: 1-613-591-3335  
Toll Free: 1-888-556-6222  
Fax: 1-613-591-9335

Royal Canadian Legion London Office  
2-30 Grand Avenue London, ON N6C 1K8

## Comments and Suggestions

We have made every effort to provide accurate and up-to-date information in this guide. However, we realize this information is constantly changing and can quickly become outdated. We would appreciate it if you could contact us with any inaccuracies you discover. As well, we welcome any additional information or suggestions that you feel may be helpful to other families so that we may include it in subsequent editions of this guide.

Funding Guide | Rev. 2023-05-15  
Family and Community Services | 519-685-8700 ext 53441  
779 Base Line Road East, London ON N6C 5Y6  
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