

Other Funding Options

Families raising children with disabilities, special health care needs, and other medical challenges often experience increased expenses. Needs such as hearing aids, mobility devices, home and vehicle modifications, therapy services, and travel may not be covered by a family's insurance. There are several small programs and grants that may help families to meet the needs of their children. It is important to know that the following programs do not represent a complete listing and that eligibility for and availability of each program varies. Families are encouraged to connect with providers and others continually to learn about additional programs that may be of assistance.

Within Your Community

Civic Organizations and Sororities, such as Kiwanis, Lions, or Sertoma may be able to provide financial assistance to purchase equipment or meet other needs. Check your local phone directories or the Chamber of Commerce for a listing of civic organizations in your area.

Community Foundations. There are nearly 80 community foundations in Indiana. Each foundation houses a variety of grants and funds. Your local community foundation can provide guidance as to the availability of local funds that may meet your needs. To find the community foundation near you, visit <http://www.tgci.com/funding-sources/IN/community>

Township Trustee. Each county in Indiana is divided into townships. Each township is managed by a trustee. The township trustee distributes emergency aid from a "township assistance fund." Rules about who can access these funds and how much is available vary widely by county and by township; however, some help may be available. Contact your local trustee to find out more. To find your trustee, check the township association web site at www.indianatownshipassoc.org.

For Indiana Residents

Helping Challenged Children, Inc., is a not-for-profit based in Indianapolis, Indiana. It provides small grants to fund (in part or totally) an item that would benefit the child. This has included leg braces, hearing aids, wheelchairs, nebulizers, walkers, therapy equipment and other items. Applications must be submitted on behalf of a child by a third party (therapist, teacher, doctor, etc.). Applications and additional guidelines can be found at <http://helpingchallengedchildren.org/grant-application/>

National Programs

United Healthcare Children's Foundation is a not-for-profit that provides grants to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses for children 16 years old or younger that are not covered or not completely covered by a family's private health insurance. Additional information and an online application can be found at <http://www.uhccf.org/>.

Diagnosis Specific

Hear Indiana provides resources and advocacy for children with hearing loss. Contact them via their website <https://hearindiana.org/> or by phone at (317) 828-0211.

Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education provides information to families of deaf and hard of hearing children. Contact the Family Liaison for more information at 317-232-2826.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association assists with the purchase of wheelchairs, leg braces, and communication devices. Contact the Indiana office by phone at (317) 824-4800 for more information.

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana has a Specific Assistance program where individuals with Cerebral Palsy can apply for funds for mobility, communication and other equipment. An application and additional information can be found at <http://ucpaindy.org> or by calling (317) 871-4032.

Shriners Hospitals for Children serve children up to the age of 18 with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate are eligible for admission and receive all care in a family-centered environment at no charge – regardless of financial need. While there is no Shriners Hospital in Indiana, qualifying children can receive treatment at centers in surrounding states. Call (773) 622-5400 or visit <http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/> for more information.

Indiana Resource Directories

Check for grant resources through Indiana Institute on Disability and Community/Indiana Resource Center for Autism at:

<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/irca/articles/grant-funding-opportunities.html>

FINDER – a directory of services, programs and resources for the disability community. Search here: <https://www.indianadisabilityresourcefinder.org/>