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What is family fund

The pandemic and cost of living crisis have significantly increased the challenges faced by families we support, resulting in severe financial hardship for many. As a result, our grants and services are now more in demand than ever. Generous donations from individuals like you enable us to provide essential items, tailored support, and digital skills workshops to improve lives. Our 'Your Opportunity' scheme helps young people with disabilities or illnesses transition into adult services after turning 18, allowing them to pursue their interests and ambitions. The 'Siblings Matter Too' grant programme specifically supports siblings of disabled or seriously ill children, promoting their self-esteem and self-worth. Through your support, we can provide more than just devices; we can show families how to make the most out of them, making them accessible, safe, and fun for their kids. Our digital skills workshops cover topics such as device accessibility, online safety, and using free apps to promote creativity through music, art, and movie-making. As a charity, we rely on diverse funding sources to ensure our income is sustainable. Your donations enable us to develop and deliver new ways of supporting families raising disabled or seriously ill children. We are committed to transparency and will provide regular updates about our work and finances on our website, annual review, and financial statements. Family Fund's Commitment to Transparency and Accountability in Fundraising We are committed to being an inclusive employer and welcome applications from all candidates, including those with disabilities. As part of this commitment, we participate in the Government's Disability Confident scheme and encourage disabled applicants to come forward. We will invite disabled candidates who meet the role requirements for an interview, and also offer reasonable adjustments to support them during the process. We believe that sharing interview questions in advance helps candidates prepare and showcase their skills. To support our staff with disabilities, we provide a range of workplace adjustments, including Access to Work support and flexible working arrangements. As a Disability Confident Leader, we strive to promote diversity and inclusion within our community and encourage other organisations to join us. Family Fund Group has also signed the Armed Forces Covenant, pledging to support members of the Armed Forces Community in their employment needs. This includes service leavers, veterans, and reserve members, as well as family members of those serving or formerly serving. We invite all eligible members of the Armed Forces Community who apply for a role with us. We are also proud to be a living wage employer, with over 12,000 employers in the UK sharing our commitment. Our staff deserve a wage that meets their everyday needs, and we believe that paying at least £12.60 per hour is essential. For grant applications, Family Fund assesses each application based on income and the impact of disability on the child. While benefits are not necessarily required for eligibility, all information about applying can be found on our website. We look forward to receiving your application. Family Fund Grants: Eligibility and Application Process To apply for a grant from Family Fund, you'll need to provide information about the items you want to purchase and your child's needs. The application process typically takes three parts, with the final part requiring completion in stages over 28 days. However, if you have more than one disabled child, you can consider applying on behalf of all family members who meet the eligibility criteria. You don't need to have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP), or Special Educational Needs Statement (SEN) to apply. Family Fund uses a 'social model of disability', which considers your child's support in daily life, not just their official plan. If you can't share contact details for a professional involved in your child's care and support, you can still apply, but provide as much information as possible in the form. Family Fund can consider applications from individuals with no recourse to public funds, requiring additional information about family income and situation. We can fill in any missing details if you leave the question blank. I've applied before, so why do I need to provide my child's info again? We only allow one application every 24 months, and we require full and up-to-date information each time. When will we hear about our grant request? Our team is working as quickly as possible to process all applications, and we'll be in touch once a decision has been made or if we need more information. Can I change my grant request? If you haven't received a decision yet, you can modify your request by contacting us through this online form. We usually don't alter granted items, but if you no longer need the award, get in touch within 30 days of receiving your notification, and we might be able to help. How do I update my contact details? If your phone number or address has changed, let us know using our contact form. In some cases, we may call you to confirm changes, but otherwise, be assured that these updates will be made. If you disagree with a decision about your child's eligibility, please email documents related to their additional support needs to We may have missed essential information in your initial application. What if my grant has expired? If you were unable to spend the funds due to reasons beyond your control, contact us. How do I make a complaint about applying to Family Fund? Fill out our complaint form with your concern, and we aim to respond within 28 days. We may need additional information to classify and report your complaint correctly. If you need help with your application, get in touch with our team on 01904 550055 or . Your application will be assessed based on the additional support your child receives, not just their diagnosis. To help us make an informed decision, please provide as much information as possible about your child's needs, including any support they receive at home or when out and about. If your child requires a high level of support in at least three areas, such as personal care, education, communication, supervision and vigilance, medical or therapeutic treatment, or physical environment and specialist resources, you may be eligible for our grant. We need to know who provides this assistance and in what ways. We also consider families on low income from working or receiving certain benefits, including Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, and Income Related Employment Support Allowance. You will need to provide a copy of your recent benefit entitlement, which can be a letter or screenshot showing your family's main carer and current address. We've done the maths and it looks like we'll get more grant requests than we can handle for our main programme in England. Lots of these requests will be from families who are only asking for help for the first time, which makes things even tougher. Unfortunately, that means we won't be able to help everyone, so we've had to make some tough choices about how to prioritise our grants. To try and make things fairer, we're changing the rules on when you can apply again - now it's every 24 months instead of sooner. This way, we'll focus on helping families who haven't had a grant before or haven't had one in a while.