

Funding Resources for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Having a child with special health care needs can mean extra financial costs for your family.

Public programs, health insurance, and private foundations/grants can help pay for costs related to therapies and health care, assistive technology, medical equipment, recreation, transportation, and home modifications.

Below are some tips on where to look and how to get financial assistance to pay for your child's needs.

Public Programs

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. The cash payments can be used to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. A child younger than age 18 can qualify if his or her family's income and resources fall within the eligibility limits and he or she meets SSA's definition of disability for children.
<http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/ssi.html>
- The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is where people go to get help for in-home, out-of-home, and community-based services. Children who do not qualify for SSI due to family income may still be eligible for DDA services which are based on the child's disability and not family income.
<https://informingfamilies.org/topic/dda-services/>
Apply:
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda>

Medical

- Charity Care and Financial Assistance at Washington State Hospitals. Washington's hospitals are committed to ensuring patients get the hospital care they need regardless of their ability to pay for that care. Charity care eligibility is based on family size and income. State law requires hospitals to provide free and discounted inpatient and outpatient care. Each hospital is responsible for maintaining its own charity care program. Reach out to the hospital's charity care/financial assistance program for information on eligibility and application. Seattle Children's Hospital:
<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/clinics/paying-for-care/financial-assistance/>
- Medicaid will provide reimbursement for private health insurance coverage when an Apple Health (Medicaid) client has access to private health insurance coverage, such as through an employer or private policy.
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/program-administration/premium-payment-program>
- Medicaid (Apple Health) Transportation Services, gas vouchers and nonemergency transportation for eligible clients to and from covered medical appointments through transportation brokers.
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/transportation-services-non-emergency#transportation-broker-directory>
- Prescription for Diapers, for children ages 3 years and older, diapers can be covered by medical insurance with a prescription, with a diagnostic code of bowel and bladder incontinence. A medical supply company will provide you with the diapers.
<https://whatcomtakingaction.org/2016/03/17/paying-for-diapers-with-apple-health-3/>

Other Funding

Blue Skies for Children

<http://www.blueskiesforchildren.org/>

2505 Cedarwood Ave. Ste. 5

Bellingham, WA 98225

Office Hours: M-Th, 10:00AM to 4:00PM

Phone: (360) 756-6710

Al Boe Wheelchair Warehouse/Bellingham Central Lions Club

<https://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/al-boe-wheelchair-warehouse/>

4141 W Maplewood Bellingham, WA 98226 Phone: (360) 752-5526 (800)

772-1213 TTY (800) 325-0778

Email: wheelchairs@bellinghamcentrallions.org

Mondays & Thursdays, 9-11:30AM

WCW loans durable medical equipment to folk in Northwest Washington.

It is a free service, though they gladly accept donations. Equipment

loaned includes low vision aids, wheelchairs, power chairs, walkers,

crutches, canes, and bedside and bathroom helpers of all kinds. Loans are

for three months but may be extended based on need.

Ben's Fund - Autism Grant

<https://www.bensfund.org/>

Provide support to children and young adults with autism through financial assistance. This is only for children who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is a \$1000 grant that can be used for your child's services, technology, therapies, camps, equipment, safety/security, etc. Ben's Fund, PO Box 1317 Bellevue, WA 98009 Phone: (206) 957-7708 Ext 188

Sisu Children's Fund

<http://sisuchildrensfund.org/>

(360) 671-8766

Email: sisuchildrensfund@gmail.com

A public charity able to give grants directly to needy families in Washington State, with priority to children in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

- Academic scholarships to a few admirable students each year. To qualify, you must have had a mental or physical disability in the past.
- Financial help to buy medical treatment, equipment, or therapy.

Recreation

National Parks Pass

The Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States that have been medically determined to have a permanent disability (does not have to be a 100% disability) that severely limits one or more major life activities. It provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by five Federal agencies. <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html#benefits>

Washington State Parks -Discover Pass

You do NOT need a Discover Pass for day use access at state parks if you have a disability placard/license plate OR a free state-issued Disability Pass. This program also offers free watercraft launching, trailer dumping and a 50% discount on camping and moorage.

<https://parks.state.wa.uw/1207/Disability-Pass>

Transportation

Washington State Ferries

Reduced fare tickets on WA State ferries. Present identification verifying disability eligibility to the ticket seller when purchasing a ticket. More details at <https://wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/rider-information/ada>

Public Transportation Reduced Fare Permit

People with disabilities may ride the bus or train at a reduced rate if they submit an application to their local agency and get approved for a permit. For more information on eligibility and application, call (360) 676-7433 or <http://www.ridewta.com/fares-passes/fares/reduced-fare> or go to 205 E Magnolia St., Bellingham, WA 98225

Orca Card/Sound Transit: <https://www.soundtransit.org/ride-with-us/how-to-pay/fares/regional-reduced-fare-permit>

Disability Parking Placard

A parking placard that allows your family to park close to the entrance of medical/dental offices, hospitals, grocery stores, shopping centers, zoos, etc. if there is a medical condition for your child that qualifies. Your child's medical provider needs to write a prescription and the Disabled Parking Application for Individuals. Take both of these to where you get your parking tabs. The Disabled Parking Application for Individuals can be found at this website: <https://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420073.pdf>
More information can be found at:

<https://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/parking.html>