



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Family Support Grant Program

The Family Support Grant Program provides state cash grants to families of children with disabilities. The program's goal is to prevent or delay out-of-home placement of children and to promote family health and well-being by providing access to certain services and supports.

In fiscal year 2015, \$2,698,346 in state funds was spent on the Family Support Grant Program.

Who is eligible for a FSG?

- Families of children with a certified disability, under age 21 years, living in their biological or adoptive home.
- Children currently residing in an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Developmental Disabilities or Related Condition or other licensed residential service or facility who would return to their family home if a grant were awarded.

Families with an annual adjusted gross income of \$99,932 or more as of January 2016 are not eligible for the Family Support Grant except in cases where extreme hardship is demonstrated. Considerations may include size of the family, presence of a disability in other family members and substantial debt due to the child's disability.

Currently, families receiving services under the Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Community Alternative Care Waiver, Community Alternative for Disabled Individuals Waiver, Brain Injury Waiver, Consumer Support Grant or Personal Care Assistance are not eligible for the Family Support Grant. A family with a child receiving services under any of these programs may apply for a Family Support Grant. However, if a grant becomes available to the family and they choose to participate in the program, they must stop receiving services under all programs as identified.

How do families receive a Family Support Grant?

Family Support Grant funds may be issued to families by counties in the form of cash, voucher or direct county payment to a vendor. Grants may be awarded on a one-time or on an ongoing basis.

How much can a family receive?

The amount of the Family Support Grant award is based on individual needs. Grants may not exceed \$3,113.99, as of January 2016, per calendar year for each child with a disability.

How can the grant be used?

The grant must be spent on services and items that are directly related to caring for the child with a disability and are described in the child's county-approved service plan. The services also must be those not available through another funding source or community program.

The only expenses that may be covered are those over and above the usual and customary costs of caring for the child if the child did not have a disability.

Examples of allowable expense categories that may be approved in a child's plan include:

- Day care
- Educational services not already covered by the Department of Education
- Medical costs not covered by insurance
- Medications not covered by insurance
- Respite care services
- Specialized clothing
- Specialized dietary needs
- Specialized equipment, which may include home or vehicle modifications
- Transportation specific to disability

How can families apply for the Family Support Grant?

You can apply at your local county social service agency. Visit mn.gov/dhs and look for counties/regional offices in the A-Z listing or call the Disability Linkage Line at 866-333-2466 or contact the Disability Linkage Line at www.db101.org

For accessible formats of this publication or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-2400, toll free 800-747-5484, or use your preferred relay service.