



## Vermont Family Network's Family Support Fund

Vermont Family Network (VFN) was awarded a grant by the Vermont Department of Health's Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN) program to assist families with respite and unmet medical expenses. We are also here to offer support and resources to families as they navigate medical and healthcare financing systems.

### Eligibility

- Vermont resident aged 0 up to 21 years
- Have a chronic physical, medical, or developmental condition
- Require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally
- Children and families who earn at or less than 500% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Respite** is a planned break for parents or caregivers, which allows parents or caregivers time to spend with other children, schedule necessary appointments, or rest and recharge. Families will do a phone application and submit a respite plan. Initial requests are for up to \$600. Families receiving Agency Directed Respite, Family Managed Respite, or Flexible Family Funding, are not eligible.

Contact [Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org](mailto:Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org) or leave message at 802-876-5315 for a callback.

**Medically Necessary Funds** are for items or services that are not otherwise covered by insurance, including equipment, therapies, provider/hospital bills, medications, and more. Documentation from a healthcare provider familiar with the child is required. Through the application process, families may be assisted with Medicaid coverage and with identifying additional or alternative funding resources.

Contact [Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org](mailto:Joanne.Wechsler@vtfn.org), [Betty.Morse@vermont.gov](mailto:Betty.Morse@vermont.gov), or your CSHN regional Medical Social Worker.

Families may apply for a total of \$1200 for Respite and/or Medically Necessary Funds per year. Families will need to submit a W-9 Form if requests total \$600 or more. Applications are reviewed weekly by a team of VFN and CSHN staff. Applicants will be notified of the review team decision within a few days.

The Family Support Fund does not pay for vehicles, housing, structural home modifications, I-Pads, tracking devices, therapies that are not 'evidence based', or non-prescribed medications or supplements, such as medical marijuana or CBD oils.