



Goodhue County
Health and Human Services

Public Health Division
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FAMILY SUPPORT GRANT

Expense Category Definitions

Family Support Grant funds can be used within the following categories:

Day Care: After school or weekend childcare expenses for children who, because of their disabilities, are not able to remain at home unsupervised as would similar-aged children without disabilities, are allowed.

Educational: This category includes the costs of educational programs and services that are not available through the child's local education agency, or are necessary in addition to those provided by other sources. Fees for consultation with professionals from private agencies, local parent training programs, and costs for direct service professionals or paraprofessionals coming into the home for the purpose of addressing problems with excess behavior, adaptive skill deficits, and other need areas are examples of items which have been reimbursed in the past. Items which parents would either be expected to provide, or have the option of providing if their child did not have a disability are not allowable. The cost of specialized computer software, modifications, or other adaptive devices which are necessary to enable a child with disabilities to use a computer may be covered under this category.

Transitional Service for Employment: This is allowable when the person is between the ages of 14 up to 25 years old and related to the person's disability. These activities can include items, trainings, expenses that are necessary and reasonable to support the person and family on an employment goal. This could include driving assessments costs, driving classes to obtain MN licenses all gaining in pursuit of employment (Courage Kenny, MCIL). Bus card, Metro rides, Uber/LYFT ride vouchers, taxi cabs, etc. can be covered if related to employment only. This does not cover gas, mileage, maintenance or insurance of a vehicle.

Medical: Allowable medical expenses are those which are not reimbursable through private insurance, Medical Assistance, or other social service funds. FSG funds can be used to pay for medical bills incurred prior to MA eligibility and/or expenses that are in excess of that covered by the family's private insurance when the recipient has been determined to be ineligible for MA. The Family Support Grant cannot be used to pay parental fees assessed to families using TEFRA. The Family Support Grant can be utilized to pay for medical mileage related to appointments related to a person's disability.

Medication: Medication expenses include costs for prescription and non-prescription substances that are necessary due to the child's disability. Applicants are reminded that the costs of prescription drugs are reimbursable through MA.

Parental Support/Respite Services: Reimbursement is allowed for in-home and out-of-home respite care costs. Parental support is reimbursable when the parent hires someone to assist

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with the child outside of daycare or respite coverage. The Family Support Grant does not allow parents to pay themselves to care for the child. The parent sets the rate per hour for the support staff and keeps track of hours worked. Receipts for services are required.

Safety Equipment - Such as alarms, monitors, and shatterproof windows are allowable expenditures when based on disability related needs. (Household safety based on neighborhood is considered household responsibility). Fencing and/or GPS Device – Global Positioning Device and monthly service fee are allowed when the participant has safety concerns with elopement and/or is not able to communicate their location and personal information to a person in the community.

Sensory Supplies and Equipment – Allowed as recommended by specialist when you list them on your approved support plan.

Special Clothing: This category includes the costs for extra clothing and bed linens required for a child with incontinence, or for a child whose clothing wears out quickly due to abnormal movement patterns resulting from a disability. It also includes specially designed clothing for children with physical disabilities, and medically prescribed articles for which other funding is not available (e.g., orthopedic shoes, helmets for head protection during seizures).

Special Diet: Unusually high food and supplement costs due to special diets prescribed by a physician in an amount beyond USDA recommendations for a recipient without disability of similar age are allowable. The need for dietary supplement must be directly related to the child's disability and must not be reimbursable through other funding sources such as MA, WIC, food stamps, etc.

Technology: Computers/Tablets – Computers and tablets are considered typical household responsibility. With a documented need and detailed justification included in the plan, computers and tablets may be allowed. Computers and tablets may be purchased once every three years. When computers and tablets are allowed, consider the following: • Either a computer or an electronic tablet may be purchased once every three years. The plan should include a description of which device works best for the participant. Seek recommendation from providers, therapists, and teachers to make an informed decision. To prevent damage to the device, the plan should include a description of safe-guards and prevention plan. A protective case and extended warranties should be included on requests for all tablet and portable devices. When used solely as an Augmentative Communication Device, tablets may be covered by MA and should be utilized before utilizing the Family Support Grant. In the event of theft, the recipient must file a police report for a replacement to be considered. Some applications and software may be approved but require approval by the Family Support Grant team.

Transportation: Expenses for transportation that are incurred as a result of child's disability should be based on county reimbursement policy. Expenses must not be reimbursable through other funding sources (e.g., costs of transporting recipients to medical appointments and hospitals are typically reimbursable through environments and school-related activities which a parent would be expected to provide if the recipient did not have a disability are not reimbursable (e.g. transportation to and from shopping centers, recreation centers, day care providers, after school activities, etc.). Support staff are able to be reimbursed for rides or mileage.

Other: Occasionally, families need items that are not normally required for raising a similar-aged child without a disability. Some items are required because of the child's disability and enable the family to keep the child in their home. Some of these items may not fall into any of the preceding categories. Examples of expenses in this category might include the cost of individual or family counseling when not covered by private insurance or available through the county, reimbursement for long distance calls regarding the child's disability, etc. These expenses must be approved on an individual basis.

Home Mods/Adaptive Items: Please consult with the FSG team on coverage for these items. School or OT recommendation letters to support these may be required prior to approval.

Receipts for all services/items are required to be kept and turned in with the next grant application. If no receipts are turned the client will no longer be eligible for the Family Support Grant.