



Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders (OAFCCD)

Parent Article

Applying for Funding from Private Charities/Foundation

By Sonya Marshall

I am the mother to 2 children who have special needs. My daughter has been diagnosed with a Mild Intellectual Disability, ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder and with a Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder. My son is diagnosed with Apraxia of Speech, an Expressive Language Disorder, ADHD, and, Mild Intellectual Disability and with a Developmental Coordination Disorder.

My son has been in private therapy since April of 2009 which at time my husband and I were paying for it out-of-pocket. It was not until June of 2011 when we were faced with having to start taking our daughter for private therapy did I decide to apply for funding.

Since 2011 I have been successful in obtaining funding for my kid's speech and language therapy; currently my children have enough funding available to them until January of 2014. Below you will find out how I went about obtain funding, the information that I send to charities/foundations and names of charities/foundations that have given my kids funding.

If you have any questions at all about obtaining funding please do not hesitate to contact me via email at walkthetalkforkids@gmail.com or at 519-550-3290.

WHAT TO DO IN OBTAINING FUNDING

- 1) Decide which charities/groups you would like to apply to
- 2) Write a cover letter. Your letter should be one page that is clear and concise. Introduce yourself and explain why you are contacting the organization or individual. Include a brief description of your child and his/her needs
- 3) Include a photograph of your child
- 4) If your child has more than one diagnosis make sure to mention ALL the diagnoses that your child has when writing. When making reference to your child's speech and language disorders **refer** to it as a communication disorder and **not** as a speech and language disorder. The charities/foundations that I

have dealt with seem more opened to fund therapy when they know that it is a communication disorder.

- 5) In a more detailed letter include more information about your child, your child's disability, how it affects the child and your family, when you first noticed that there was an issue, information on any funds that you have managed to secure (eg. If there is coverage though extended health benefits, etc.). If your child is in school you can include information how it affects them in school. Make this letter as personal as you can. Tell the charity the struggles that you and your family are facing.
- 6) Include a section in your more detailed letter on what you would spend the funding on if you are awarded it and how it would benefit your child.
- 7) Some charities will require proof of the following so be prepared to submit it if it is requested:
 - A letter of diagnosis about the child's disability from your doctor
 - A letter of support from a secondary party (speech and language therapist, physical therapist, occupation therapist, etc)
 - Documentation confirming the income of the household
- 8) **NEVER** email the charity/foundation asking for help. Always fill out there application and send along the necessary documentation to them.
- 9) Try to get your SLP or some other professional to write up a letter of support for the request for funding and send that along with the rest of the information.
- 10) The first time when you apply to a charity for funding except to wait 6-8 weeks for a reply back.

CHARITIES/GROUPS THAT I HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RECEIVING FUNDING FROM FOR PRIVATE SPEECH THERAPY

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

This charity helps children who have physical or developmental disabilities.

To be considered for funding, the child must meet the following criteria:

- Be 18 and under
- Diagnosed with a physical or developmental disability
- The household annual income must be \$70000 or less

- Must be a Canadian citizen and/or have permanent resident status in Canada

NOTE: It is possible to receive funding for speech therapy through this organization if your child has a speech/language disorder along with a physical or developmental disability. When applying refer to the child's speech/language disorder as a communication disorder.

If granted funding any funding is valid for 6 months from date of approval. Funds are for use only in Canada.

When submitting a request for funding the PCCC requires the following:

- A letter that describes:
 - Your child and his or her condition
 - The family situation
 - The funding amount that is needed
 - How the funding will help your child
 - The child's date of birth, address and phone number
- A copy of your child's diagnosis(es) from your medical doctor
- A letter from a secondary party (eg. Speech-Language Therapist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, etc)
- A photocopy of your child's Canadian birth certificate or permanent residence card
- Official documentation confirming the household gross income, as shown on Line 150 of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Notice of Assessment
- Page 1 and 2 of the corresponding T1 General Tax form to verify marital status
- Two quotes of the cost of the item from the vendor/service provider (if available)
- Any funds that you have secured or are seeking from other sources
- Any funds that you are able to contribute

Application for funding can be found by visiting

http://t4gimages.com/pccc/pdf/PCCC_Application_English_Aug_2012.pdf

Website: <http://www.presidentschoice.ca/LCLOnline/pcccHome.jsp>

Mail your application to:

FOR ONTARIO, WESTERN & ATLANTIC CANADA

President's Choice Children's Charity

1 President's Choice Circle

Brampton, Ontario L6Y 5S5

JENNIFER ASHLEIGH CHILDREN'S CHARITY

The JACC helps assist children who are seriously ill or have a permanent disability. Funding from the JACC is valid for one year from approval date.

Eligibility Requirements to receive funding from the JACC are as follows:

- The need for financial assistance must result from costs surrounding the child's illness or disability
- Must be diagnosed by a Canadian Medical Practitioner
- Must be 21 year of age or younger
- The child and parent or guardian must be a Canadian citizen or Landed Immigrant and be a permanent resident of Ontario
- Combined family gross household income must be \$60000 or less. Exception to income will only be considered if there is more than one child with special needs in the family
- All financial resources that are available to the family, including personal resources, as well as funding from the government, service agencies and/or non-profit organizations must be used up first

When submitting a request to the JACC for funding you must be able to provide the following supporting documentation:

- A copy of a licensed Canadian medical practitioner's diagnosis for our child
- A letter from the child's therapist, medical professional or social worker supporting the request
- A quote from the vendor/supplier for the services that are being requested
- Information on any funds that you are able to contribute
- Proof that the household's gross income before taxes is \$60000 or less. They require a copy of the most recent Notice of Assessment from CRA
- Page 1 and 2 of your Income Tax Return
- A copy of your most recent cheque stub for Social Assistance, Employment or Employment Insurance payment
- A copy of your Record of Employment if you have been laid off since your last income tax return was filed
- If you are self-employed, a copy of your T2125 showing all write-offs against your business

If granted funding any funding is valid for 12 months from date of approval.

Application for funding can be found by visiting: <http://www.jenash.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/JACC-JAN-2013-Application-Form.pdf>

Website: <http://www.jenash.org/>

Mail or Fax your application to:
Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity
10800 Concession 5
Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1R1
Fax (905)852-0124

SERVICE CLUBS

Don't forget to contact the service clubs in your area as some of that might be able to help or be able to access charities/foundations that will not deal with us the parents directly. The service clubs that I have been successfully in receiving funding from are as follows:

- 1) The Optimist Club
- 2) The Masonic Lodge
- 3) The Elks of Canada. With the Elks there is not many of them in Ontario so contact the Elk Lodge that is closest to where you live. Once the Elks have received a letter asking for financial help they will set up a convenient time to come to your house and meet you and fill out there application form. To find out where the closest Elks Lodge is visit <http://elks-canada.org/> ; click on the Directory link at the top; then click on the Lodge link

GENERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE THOUGH THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES

Is a monthly allowance for children with severe disabilities. It helps pay for expenses beyond those of raising an able-bodied child.

If you are a parent or a legal guardian whose child who fits the criteria below you are:

- Is under 18 year of age,
- Lives at home
- And has a severe disability

you may be eligible to receive help under the ASCD depending on your income. Parents who are eligible for assistance through this program can get between \$25 and \$440 a month to help with costs. Examples are as follows:

- Travel to doctors, hospital and therapy appointments
- Accommodations for out of area appointments that require an overnight stay
- Special shoes and clothes
- Parental relief
- Wheelchair repairs
- Assistive devices
- Hearing aids
- Hearing aid batteries
- Prescription drugs
- Dental care
- Eyeglasses

How much a family will receive depends on the following:

- The family's income
- The severity of the disability
- The kind of difficulties the child has when
 - Walking
 - Communicating
 - Feeding himself/herself
 - Bathing himself/herself
- The extraordinary costs related to the disability

To apply for the ASCD contact your local regional office and ask for an application form <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/about/regionaloffices.aspx>

DISABILITY TAX CREDIT—T2201

The Disability Tax Credit is a non-refundable tax credit that you can use to help reduce the amount of income tax that you are required to pay.

To apply for the DTC you must file out Part A of Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate. Then, take the form to a qualified practitioner who can certify the sections that apply.

A qualified practitioner for speech and language disorders is either a medical doctor or an Audiologist for hearing impairments or a Speech-Language Pathologist for speaking impairments.

Website: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/nem-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/lns300-350/316/pplly-eng.html>