https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/

Grants, Scholarships and Funding sources for Families with Children with Disabilities

This is not an all-inclusive list. We add things to it as we become aware of them. If you are aware of resources that could be added to this list, please email them to Christy Moore at: **cmoore@ecacmail.org**.

Autism	Hearing Loss/Deaf	Speech Therapy
Deaf/Blind	Hospital Bill Assistance	Service Animals
Discount Programs for Equipment	Insurance - Tips to cover therapy	State Funds/Flex Funds
Education Grants/Scholarships	Legal Resources	Summer Camp Assistance
Experiences for Children with Special Health Care Needs	Medical Conditions - Support	Taxes
Financial Assistance for Rent/Utilities	Medically Complex	Transportation & Medical Travel Help
General	Miscellaneous	Housing/Transportation
Genetic Testing	Pediatric Brain Tumor	Vision/Eye Glasses

AUTISM SPECIFIC:

- **Autism Strong**
- **Autism Speaks**
- **Golden Care Therapy**
- **Channing's Joy** - assistance for therapy bills, AAC devices, and other services

- **Autism Care Today** - ACT Today SOS program is committed to supporting the immediate needs of those impacted by autism. The funding is provided to help families' access effective treatments.
- **TACA**

DEAF/BLIND RESOURCES:

- **iCanConnect**: provides free equipment and training for people with both significant hearing and vision loss who meet the program's disability and income eligibility guidelines.

DISCOUNT PROGRAMS FOR EQUIPMENT:

- **Wonderfold**
- **WonderFold Cares – Wonderfold Wagon**
- **Larktale**

EDUCATION GRANT/SCHOLARSHIPS FOR K-12:

- **ESA+ Grant** - North Carolina's Education Student Accounts (ESA+) program is available to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Funds may be used to pay tuition and fees for eligible private schools, and for expenses such as speech therapy, tutoring services, and educational technology.
    - $9,000 annual award; students with certain designated disabilities may be eligible to receive $17,000 a year
    - Families may choose from a variety of learning environments, including private schools, home schools, or co-enrollment
    - Eligibility based on documentation of a disability and other program requirement
- **Opportunity Scholarship**
- **Folds of Honor**
- **HSLDA Homeschool Grants**

College Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

- **Matthew C. Graziadei Scholarship**

- **Jacob Rodriguez College Scholarship (Autism) -** Applicants must reside in and receive services within one of the following counties - North Carolina: Mecklenburg, Union, Gaston, Cabarrus, Iredell, Lincoln, Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Rowan, Stanly, Durham, Orange, Wake, Chatham, Buncombe, Henderson, Davie, Forsyth - South Carolina: York, Lancaster, Chester, Chesterfield
- **Route 79 Scholarship Program -** Helping students in the Duchenne muscular dystrophy community pursue post-high school education

ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS:

- **Meg's Smile Foundation** is a charitable organization that provides gifts and/or fun days to children affected by serious illnesses who are treated in North Carolina hospitals. Our mission is to bring smiles to the faces of these children and their families while they are going through what can be a very long and emotional journey.
- **Make a Wish -** Central & Western North Carolina
- **Make-A-Wish® Eastern North Carolina**
- **A Kid Again Central Carolinas** is a children's charity based in Charlotte, North Carolina. We are honored to serve families who are raising children living with life-threatening conditions across North and South Carolina.
- **The Dream Factory** - is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the largest all-volunteer driven children's wish-granting organization that does not limit its mission to children who have life-threatening illness. The organization believes children with chronic illnesses and disorders also suffer from substantial emotional and physical pain.
- **Sunshine Foundation** - Sunshine Foundation's special dreams can be anything from a family trip, a shopping spree, or adaptive medical or therapeutic equipment! Our dreamers have requested and received items such as above-ground swimming pools, outdoor play equipment, sensory rooms, and many other amazing dream items.
- **Hope Kids** - HopeKids offers an ongoing program of fun events for families who have children with life-threatening medical conditions. These events provide the family with something to anticipate and enjoy together, fostering quality time in a safe, accepting environment alongside other families experiencing similar challenges. Best of all, these events are always free.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RENT, UTILITIES OR OTHER EMERGENCY EXPENSES:

- Modest Needs Grant
- Open Door Ministries High Point - Emergency Financial Assistance
- Emergency Assistance - Short-Term Financial Assistance for Families in Crisis
- Salvation Army
- NC Cares 360
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program

GENERAL:

- Red Treehouse.org - search by type of services needed, condition/disability and/or age group
- Support Now - Find Grants to Cover Your Medical Needs - Browse the largest, up-to-date collection of grants to fund families with financial needs of all sizes.
- United HealthCare Children's Foundation Grant
- First in Families - FIF NC can provide assistance if someone in the home is age 0-3 and at risk for developmental delay, age 4 has developmental delay, or age 5 and over has developmental disability diagnosis such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spina Bifida, Severe and Persistent Mental Illness, or Substance Use Disorder.
- Dream Create Grow: The mission of the DCG Foundation is to offer financial scholarships for occupational, speech, and physical therapy, paid directly to businesses providing the services, for deserving families in communities around the country. Additionally, we offer financial assistance for eligible applicants who require adaptive equipment and transportation to therapy, and will help support community outreach programs that support their local pediatric therapy communities. Open to NC residents.
- Lifespan Respite Care Grant
- Robert Miller Children's Fund: A caring fund to provide assistance to any child in North Carolina under the age of 18 with serious medical/dental or related needs that cannot financially afford the service.
- Kiddos' Clubhouse Foundation - a 501(c)(3) organization that provides scholarships to families who are not able to pay for therapeutic services for their

children with special needs. The organization also provides public education about disabilities and supports other nonprofit organizations associated with children with special needs.

- Accessia Health - Our programs provide financial assistance with copays, health insurance premiums, travel costs, and other medical expenses.
- Patient Advocate Foundation
- Patient Advocate Foundation Copay Relief - We provide direct payment for co-pays, co-insurance, and deductibles for patients who need financial assistance.
- Partnership for Prescription Alliance
    - Device and Service Animal Programs
    - Diabetes Programs and Supplies
    - Additional Resources
- The PAN Foundation's mission is to accelerate access to affordable, equitable healthcare through financial assistance, advocacy, and education. Through our charitable assistance programs, advocacy efforts, and education initiatives, we remove barriers to treatment, champion policies that expand access to care, and help improve health outcomes for thousands of people each year—across a broad range of health conditions.
- Guidance Medical Stay Afloat Grant - This program provides financial support of up to $500 for families of children with complex medical needs, lending a helping hand when it's needed most.
- North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children - The Children's Fund is a resource for public school employees seeking assistance on behalf of public school students for items and services that directly relate to a student's academic experience and when no other resource is available. Please see the list of items and services included in the guidelines. Our goal is to help the student receive what is needed as quickly as possible.

GENETIC TESTING:

- Fulgent
- Genome Medical - financial assistance for the cost of genetic counseling
- GeneDx Financial Assistance Program
- Myriad Genetics
- Natera
- Probably Genetic

HEARING LOSS/DEAF

- Carolina Children's Communicative Disorder Program (CCCDP) Financial Assistance Program helps pay for hearing technology for children in North Carolina who are D/deaf or hard of hearing. **Who can apply?**
    - Residents of North Carolina
    - Child must be under 21 years old
    - The family must meet program guidelines which is based on family size, income and other medical costs
    - Child must NOT have Medicaid
- Miracle Ear Foundation helps to provide hearing aids and other assistive technology devices to individuals who will benefit from them. (Moved this under this category from Specific Medical Conditions category)

HELP WITH HOSPITAL BILLS:

- Dollar For
- NC DHHS Medical Debt Relief Program - for hospital bills
- HealthWell Foundation
- Patient Access Network Foundation
- Samaritan Health Services
- National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

TIPS FOR GETTING INSURANCE TO COVER THERAPY:

- Five Tips for Getting Insurance To Pay for Therapy
- Getting Insurance Companies to Pay for Children's Therapies: 9 Hacks
- University Students training to become SLPs or OTs may work with your child for a reduced cost in exchange for the experience.

LEGAL RESOURCES:

- Disability Rights NC **-** Disability Rights North Carolina is a legal advocacy agency that fights for the rights of people with disabilities in North Carolina. We handle cases involving discrimination, abuse and other rights violations. All of our services are at no cost to North Carolinians with disabilities.

- **Duke Children's Law Clinic** - The Children's Law Clinic provides free legal advice, advocacy, and legal representation to low-income, at-risk children in cases involving special education, school discipline, and children's disability benefits.
- **Legal Aid NC** - Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity.
- **NC Bar Association's - NC Free Legal Answers Program** - Volunteer attorneys can answer civil legal questions relating to 20+ legal categories on NC Free Legal Answers: Family/Divorce/Custody, Housing, Debts & Purchases, Work (Employment), Workers Compensation, Wills/Inheritance, Benefits, Health Care, Medicaid/Medicare/Affordable Care Act, Natural Disaster, Personal Injury, Expungement, Special Education, School Discipline, Immigration, Civil/Constitutional Rights, Emancipation & Delinquency, and Military/Veteran disability questions.
- **NCBA's Pro Bono Initiatives**
- **NC MedHelp** - Our team provides person-centered support to help Medicaid beneficiaries navigate healthcare & other public benefits systems. Since we are based within legal advocacy organizations statewide, we can easily connect you to legal staff when you need formal representation.

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

- **Association of Blind Citizens Assistive Technology Fund** offers grants for assistive technology and software for individuals with visual impairments.
- **American Council of the Blind** offers scholarships for college or job training programs, and sometimes offers grants for assistive technology for people who have vision impairments.
- **Sight for Students** offers free vision exams and glasses. If you meet Sight for Students' income rules, you can talk to your child's school or another participating community organization to get a voucher for an exam and glasses.
- **Charge Syndrome Foundation** - Financial support for recreation, travel assistance, and sibling scholarships
- **Chelsea Hutchinson Foundation** - is a non-profit corporation formed to provide help and support to individuals, particularly children and young adults, who have epilepsy.

- **Diabetes Medication Assistance Programs**
- **Danny Did Foundation** - We are dedicated in our mission to prevent deaths caused by seizures. English info and Spanish info
- **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** offers help paying for medical insurance premiums and co-payments for people who have certain kinds of cancer.
- **Muscular Dystrophy Association** offers services and support to children with muscular dystrophy.
- **National Institute for Diabetes,Digestive and Kidney Disease - Financial Help for Diabetes Care**
- **National Kidney Foundation - Patient and Family Resources**
- **Alyssa V. Phillips Foundation** supports individuals with Cerebral Palsy (CP) with a focus on assisting children with CP, their families, or any individual impacted by CP in maximizing independence.
- **Family Reach** is a national organization dedicated to eradicating the financial barriers that accompany a cancer diagnosis.
- **Gwendolyn Strong Foundation** The Gwendolyn Strong Foundation's "SMA Community Grants" program will make financial grant contributions toward uncovered, tangible expenses associated with the challenges of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. While we can't fund projects in their entirety, we can help families reach their fundraising goals and hopefully feel less stress in getting their child or themselves what they need so they can live life to the fullest.
- **The HIKE Fund** works with families who qualify to provide devices for children with hearing loss from newborn age up to twenty years old.
- **Holton's Heroes** provides support, information, and rehabilitative devices for children and their families affected by a post-birth brain injury.
- **The Kelly Brush Foundation** inspires and empowers people with spinal cord injuries to lead active and engaged lives.
- **The LGS Foundation's** mission is to improve the lives of individuals affected by Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) through research, family support programs, and educationThe McLindon Family Foundation.
- **Molly Bear Foundation** aims to provide supplemental financial assistance to families raising children with Trisomy 18.
- **Small Steps in Speech** provides grants on behalf of children with speech and language disorders for therapies, treatments, communicative devices, and other services.

- **VSP "Global Sight for Students" Program** the Vision Sight Plan gift certificate programs ensure that adults and children in need, including those affected by disaster, have access to quality eye care and new glasses at no cost.
- The **National Gaucher Foundation - CARE Program** provides financial assistance for people with Gaucher disease and their families through the CARE and CARE+ Programs.
- **Financial Assistance For Patients With Rare Diseases | NORD** - Provides patient assistance programs to help individuals living with rare diseases:
    - Obtain medication
    - Receive financial help with insurance premiums and copays
    - Get diagnostic testing assistance
    - Receive travel assistance for clinical trials or consultation with disease specialists
    - Provide caregiver respite
    - Offer support during emergencies
    - Gain knowledge about rare diseases
    - Connect with other patient assistance programs

MEDICALLY COMPLEX:

- **CMC - Parker Lee Project**
- **Oracle Health Foundation**
- **Giving Angels Foundation**
- **My Gym Foundation**
- **Aubrey Rose Foundation** - For Kids with a life threatening medical condition

MISCELLANEOUS:

- **Voices Together - Music Therapy Program Scholarship**
- **Medical Equipment resources**
- **Museums for All**
- **Assistive Technology** - Assistive Technology Funding Resources | NCDHHS
- **Unlocked Inc.** - We created unlocked with a mission to fund adaptive or medical equipment for families raising children with disabilities.
- **Chive Charities** - military families, rare disease, veterans, and first responders

PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR:

- Keep Punching
- The Glenn Garcelon Foundation
- Mission 4 Maureen
- The Matthew Larson Foundation

SPEECH THERAPY:
Nationwide Resources

- Orange Effect Foundation - OEF's mission is to make sure children with speech disorders receive the speech therapy and technology equipment they need…especially when the children's family doesn't have the financial means.
- Rite Care Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program (SRCLP) - Have clinics in various parts of the United States and provide diagnostic evaluations and treatment of speech and language disorders as well as learning disabilities. Depending on the area there is a waitlist or income requirements.
- Small Steps in Speech – provides grants on behalf of children with speech and language disorders for therapies, treatments, communicative devices, and other services aimed at improving their communication skills.

SERVICE ANIMALS:

- Paws for People - paws4people® trains and places Assistance Dogs, empowering users to transform their lives for a better tomorrow. We believe every person is deserving of priceless and well-deserved independence.
- Pawtism - Pawtism's mission is to provide financial support to those planning to add an autism assistance dog to their family while also raising awareness of the immense potential these animals have to change lives.

STATE FUNDS/FLEX FUNDS/EXTRA BENEFITS FROM MCOs:

State funds are limited funds that can be used to provide services for people who do not have Medicaid. Different MCOs can have different policies and options around the use of these funds. You can call and ask your MCO if any state funded services are available to your child.

- **Alliance**: (Flex funds are only available in the Alliance catchment area)
- **Work Together NC**
- **State-funded Recipients - Alliance Health**
- **Partners: State Funded Services**
- **Trillium Advantage** - (must be in a tailored plan)
- **Trillium Choose Independence**
- **State funded services** - Member Benefit Plans | Service Definitions | Trillium Health Resources
- **Vaya Health**

SUMMER CAMP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- **CampStrong Grant (Autism)** - Applicants must reside in and receive services within one of the following counties: **North Carolina:** Mecklenburg, Union, Gaston, Cabarrus, Iredell, Lincoln, Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Rowan, Stanly, Durham, Orange, Wake, Chatham, Buncombe, Henderson, Davie, Forsyth **South Carolina:** York, Lancaster, Chester, Chesterfield
- **Triangle area**
- **Greensboro**
- **Southeastern NC**
- **Swain County**
- **Mooresville**
- **Littleton NC** (Halifax)

Charlotte:

- **YMCA - Camp Thunderbird**
- **The Summer Camp Fund**
- **Children's Theater of Charlotte**
- **Discovery Place**
- **UNC Charlotte**

TAXES:

- **Free Tax Preparation Assistance** - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) **-** Sites offer free tax return preparation to individuals having low to moderate income. Call 1-800-906-9887 for a VITA site near you or visit the website.
- **Tax Breaks for Parents of Children with Disabilities**
- **Tax Strategies for Parents of Children with Special Needs**

- **Living and Working with Disabilities** - This publication presents basic information about existing tax credits and benefits that may be available to qualifying taxpayers with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and businesses or other entities wishing to accommodate persons with disabilities. https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3966.pdf

County Specific

Cleveland County:
Cleveland County Fund for Children & Adults with Disabilities, Inc.
PO Box 1324; Shelby, NC 28151
(704) 482-7344
Provides emergency financial assistance to individuals and families living with a disability. A service of the Junior Charity League of Shelby in cooperation with United Way's Information and Referral Center.

Buncombe and surrounding counties:
- **Elben Charities**
- **Asheville/Buncombe Christian Ministries**
- **Mountain Vista Recovery** - They have a list of local organizations on this website that might be able to provide assistance

Mecklenburg and Surrounding Counties
- **Crisis Assistance**
- **Helping Hands Carolinas** - housing and transportation resources
- **Kids with PossAbilites** - Our mission is to provide funding for therapy, assistive technology and educational scholarships for children with developmental delays in the Greater Charlotte Area

Rebuilding Hope - Based in Henderson, RHI serves surrounding areas in Vance, Granville, Warren and Franklin counties of North Carolina to rebuild roofs and install ramps.

TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICAL TRAVEL HELP:

- **Air Care Alliance** organizes information on more than 60 different programs with volunteer pilots who help people with disabilities or special health-care needs. You can apply to them all at once on the website.
- **Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation** offers assistance for travel related to cancer treatment for children and young adults under 21.
- **Children's Flight of Hope, Inc**. is a nonprofit organization that gives children with critical medical needs free air transportation to and from a medical facility, if they are going for treatment.
- **Corporate Angel Network** arranges free plane transportation for cancer patients and bone marrow donors going to or from recognized cancer treatment centers.
- **Lifeline Pilots** is a private nonprofit organization that gives people with medical and financial needs free air transportation on a private aircraft for health-care visits.
- **Mercy Medical Angels** helps transport people in medical and financial crises by connecting them with people or organizations that give free or low-cost patient air transportation.
- **Miracle Flights for Kids** gives free medical transportation by air to families who need necessary medical treatment out of their home state.
- The **National Children's Cancer Society** provides the financial assistance needed to ensure a child with cancer gets the treatment they need – whether it is across town or across the country.
- **National Patient Travel Center** connects families to air medical transportation for children who need to see out-of-area specialists.
- **Operation Liftoff** will provide air travel for a child younger than 18 years old and 1 parent. Any child 3 to 18 years old who has a life-threatening illness and has not received a wish trip from another organization can apply to get a dream trip too.

HOUSING/TRANSPORTATION:

- **Wheels for Hope**
- **All Things Possible Mobility** - All Things Possible raises funds to purchase and gift wheelchair accessible vans to safely transport the disabled. All Things Possible Mobility currently serves those living in the Charlotte, NC metro

area. This includes the following counties: Mecklenburg, Iredell, Lincoln, Gaston, York, Lancaster, Union, Cabarrus.

- **Special Kids Fund**
- **Wheelchairs for Kids** -gives wheelchairs, vehicle and home modifications, and assistive devices to children and young adults up to age 21.
- **Wheelchair accessible vans** - (all of NC and SC)
- **Working Wheels** - Asheville area
- **Victory Advantage** - The Victory Advantage provides pathways of hope and opportunity for individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities to live beyond limitations by offering financial assistance and resources that promote independent living, dignity, and self-sufficiency in housing, employment, education and transportation.
- **The Mobility Resource**
- **Operation Homefront** - Helps military families with overdue bills, repairs, or other critical family needs
- **Free Charity Cars**
- **Rebuilding Together** - Safe and Healthy Housing is the foundation of Rebuilding Together's home repair work, targeting significant safety and health hazards based on the Eight Principles of Healthy Homes — keep it dry, clean, pest-free, safe, contaminant-free, well-ventilated, maintained and thermally controlled.

VISION/EYE GLASSES:

- **VISION NC**: (formerly Vision USA) provides free eye exams to low-income, uninsured individuals in North Carolina. Eye exams are provided by North Carolina Optometric Society member optometrists who have agreed to give their time and services to help those in need. If you need an eye exam, do not have insurance, and cannot afford one, work with your social worker, case worker, charitable organization, or agency to submit an application on your behalf for VISION NC services. At the bottom of the page are two organizations that provide free eyeglasses.
- **Eyes of Hope: (through VSP)** Provides gift certificates with coverage for a comprehensive eye exam and a complete pair of prescription glasses with single vision or lined multifocal lenses for individuals who can't access or afford vision care. Contact Prevent Blindness at 1-800-331-2020 and let them know you're in need of vision care through the Eyes of Hope Program.

- **Lions Club International** - Offers help paying for eye care through its local clubs. Some clubs may also provide eyeglasses.
- **Mission Cataract USA** offers free cataract surgery to people of all ages who have no means to pay.
- **New Eyes Evoucher Program** - New Eyes assists low-income individuals in the United States. We provide a basic pair of eyeglasses with clear single or lined bifocal lenses. Due to client requests, we now offer lens upgrades such as progressive, tinted, blue-light filter, etc. at discounted, out-of-pocket fees on our eyeglasses **ordering site**. A list of our available upgrades are listed **here**.
- **Prevent Blindness NC Financial Resources**