

# Holland Bloorview

Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

## Money Matters

Family Resource Centre

[resourcecentre@hollandbloorview.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@hollandbloorview.ca)

2011

**\*\* Information could change at any time.**

**Contact individual programs for more clarification**

# Focus of this workshop

1. Government Programs
2. Major Charities
3. How to make your case for financial assistance
4. Resources to help with finding financial assistance

# Planning Ahead

1. Know your choices
2. Talk to the people who work with your child
  - what will your child need?
    - now
    - in the future
3. Keep your receipts & records
4. Remember: **it's okay to ask for help...**

# On your application...

- Tell your story...
  - *The funder will not understand **your** life experience.*
- How this funding will affect your family...
  - *How will this funding help your child?*
  - *How will it help your whole family?*
- Organize your work...
  - *Fill out the applications to show what you need.*
  - *Keep your receipts.*
- Ask questions...
  - *Talk to professionals.*
  - *Ask other parents.*

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# Get help

- ask your social worker or case manager
- call [respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com)
- ask a friend to look over the application
- visit the Holland Bloorview Family Resource Centre
- call the Holland Bloorview Telephone Warmline  
– 1- 877 – 463 – 0365

# Government Funding Programs

## Ontario Programs

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Child and Youth Services
- Ministry of Community and Social Services

## Canadian/Federal Programs

- Tax benefits
- Income tax claims

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# Ministry of Health (Ontario) Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

## Funding for Equipment

- Must have an Ontario Health Card
- Must have a long term disability
- Gives 75% funding for **certain** equipment
  - *wheelchairs, positioning supports, pediatric standers*
  - *prescribed by a therapist*
  - *Prescribing therapist will help with ADP*
  - *Family pays 25% of cost*

416 - 327-8804 or 1 – 800 - 268-6021

[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/adp/about.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/adp/about.html)

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# ADP (Continued)

## Funding for the 25% family portion

### Covered under other government supports:

- Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities ( ACSD )
- Ontario Disability Support Program ( ODSP )
- Ontario Works ( OW )

### Other charities can help

- Easter Seals Society
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada
- Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy

### Note:

- **you need to apply for the funding first before paying for equipment**
- charities may run out of funds ....check what is available

# Enhanced Respite Funding (Ontario)

- nursing support for children under 18
- have medically complex special needs
  - feeding tube
  - suctioning
  - needs 24 hour supervision
- lives at home
- provided through CCAC (Community Care Access Centre)

# Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) (Ontario)

Financial support:

- for child with severe disability, living at home
- family income \$65,000 or less
- child must be under 18 years old
- extraordinary costs related to the disability
  - *special shoes or clothing*
  - *prescribed equipment*
  - *prescription drugs*

416 – 325 – 0500

[www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics\\_specialneeds/index.aspx](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics_specialneeds/index.aspx)

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# ACSD (Continued)

You receive:

- drug card
- dental card
- \$25 to \$430 a month to cover expenses

You must

- renew every year by November 1
- provide a list of expenses each year
  - be sure to consider next year's expenses

# Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

## Financial support

- for the person with disability 18 and over
- available to people who live:
  - with their parents
  - independently
- helps cover living expenses ( food & rent )
- can provide help to find work
- start the application when person is 17 ½ yrs old
- 90 days to hand in the application

# Ontario Disability Support Program (Continued)

## Benefits:

- \$800 to \$1150 a month
- drug card
- dental card
- helps pay 25% of ADP prescribed equipment

416 - 314-6514

[www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/social/odsp/index.aspx](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/social/odsp/index.aspx)

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# Special Services at Home (SSAH) (Ontario)

- for people up to 18
  - with a physical and / or developmental disability
  - for adults over 18 with intellectual disability
  - eligibility based on need of the person and family
  - family can self-refer
  - provides money to:
    - hire a worker to support the person
    - buy a service not available elsewhere
    - pays for respite or specialized programs
- **must renew application every year by November 1**

# Special Services at Home (Continued)

## Situation Now

- SSAH is accepting new applicants
- **Change in April 2012:**
  - adults with developmental or intellectual disability
  - SSAH and Passport funding will be combined

416 - 325-0500 in Toronto

[www.mcass.gov.on.ca/cs/en/programs/specialneeds/respice.htm](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/cs/en/programs/specialneeds/respice.htm)

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# Passport Funding (Ontario)

## Eligibility:

- adults 18 + with developmental or intellectual disability
- may also have a physical disability
- must have finished high school
- money to buy services in the community
- restrictions with other funding ( SSAH ) may apply
- apply through the Developmental Services Ontario local offices (**New...July 2011**)

[www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/developmental\\_servicesAndSupport/passport.aspx](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/developmental_servicesAndSupport/passport.aspx)

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# Passport Funding (Continued)

## Situation Now

- wait list
- apply through Developmental Service Ontario ( DSO )
- each of the nine regions in Ontario has a local office

# Disability Tax Credit Canada – Federal

A credit applied to your income tax claim

- for people with blindness, cognitive, physical or mental health disability
- children or dependants are claimed by parent
- form **T2201** ( on website or at tax services office )
  - must be filled out by doctor **and** family member
  - send in form before April 30<sup>th</sup>
- claims can go back 10 years

[www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064](http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064) ( for information )

[www.ccra.gc.ca/forms](http://www.ccra.gc.ca/forms) ( for Form T2201 )

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# Disability Support Deductions (Income Tax Claim)

- Allows for deductions of certain expenses
  - to allow you to go to work or school
  - communication devices, computer devices
- claimed if not deducted as medical expenses
- you do not need to be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit
- fill out form T929

# Income Tax Expense Claims

## A. Travel grants for medical treatment

- if treatment is not available in your community
- claim cost of travel to that hospital
- cost for hotel for long distance travel (80km +)  
may be covered
- **Keep receipts**

# Income Tax Expense Claims (continued)

## Expense Claims

- medical expenses
- child fitness expenses
- expenses
  - moving into an accessible home
  - making accessible home renovations

**Keep your receipts to send in with your claims!**

# Child Tax and Disability Benefits

Tax free benefit up to \$2000 a year for children under 18

- amount based on income
- eligibility assessed through:
  - income tax claim
  - Disability Tax Credit application
- payments will be sent automatically
- claims for the Canada Child Tax Benefit on the income tax claim will automatically start the **Ontario Child Benefit** ( up to \$250 each year )

**1 – 800 – 387 - 1193**

[www.cra.gc.ca/benefits](http://www.cra.gc.ca/benefits) ( Information )

[www.cra.gc.ca/forms](http://www.cra.gc.ca/forms) ( Forms )

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# Charitable Organizations



# Charitable Organizations

- Different charities offer financial assistance
  - some are disability related and well known
  - others may less know like smaller private foundations
  - some service clubs like the Rotary provide assistance in local neighbourhoods
- Check with individual charities for specific timelines
- Find out from individual charities if funds are available
- If funds are not available, ask when the fund will re-open

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# Easter Seals Ontario

Children under 18 with physical disability

- Register your child in order to confirm eligibility

## 1. **Equipment Funding**

- provides funding for portion not covered by ADP, private insurances and family contribution
- family pays the \$50 depending on financial situation
- funding based on availability

416 – 421 – 8377

1- 800 – 668 – 6252

[www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com)

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# Easter Seals Ontario (continued)

## 2. Incontinence funding

- for children and youth 3 – 18 years
- diapers, catheters, enema supplies
- application form completed by doctor

416 – 421 – 8377

1- 800 – 668 – 6252

[www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com)

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# Easter Seals Ontario (continued)

## 3. Recreational Choices Funding

Children and youth registered with Easter Seals Ontario:

- 5-18 years old as of July
- up to \$500.00 (Canadian) per child
- for a recreational experience within Ontario
- separate application for each eligible child
- funding used in the summer season July to Labour Day
- apply early in the new year
  - funds are limited

**416 – 421 – 8377**

**1- 800 – 668 – 6252**

[www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com)

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# Easter Seals Ontario Family Vacation Experience

## 4. Family Vacation Exposure

Children and youth registered with Easter Seals Ontario,

- 5-18 years old as of July 1, 2011
- with complex medical condition or severe disability
- no other appropriate recreational program
- up to \$500.00 (Canadian) per child
  - for a family vacation within Ontario
  - used within summer season to Labour Day
  - funds can be applied to costs
    - approved campsites
    - cottages, motel or lodge accommodations

# Holland Bloorview Family Support Fund

- Registered clients under 19 and their families
- Financial assistance to support health and well-being
  - equipment
  - orthotics
  - recreation, respite, transportation
- application form in the resource centre & online

**416 – 425 – 6220 / 1 – 800 – 363 – 2440 Ext. 3395**

[www.hollandbloorview.ca/resourcecentre/communityresources/funding.php](http://www.hollandbloorview.ca/resourcecentre/communityresources/funding.php)

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# Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity

- Helps children with a permanent disability under 21
  - living in Ontario
  - is seriously ill
  - have a permanent disability
- Family income must be under \$60,000
  - respite • emergency financial relief • recreation
  - adapted computer equipment and software
  - educational programs, materials and instruction

905 - 852 - 1799

[www.jenniferashleigh.org](http://www.jenniferashleigh.org)

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# Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada

Financial assistance to registered clients

- maximum allowance for any item: \$2,640
- no funding for requests under \$200
- client pays \$200 towards requests of \$2640 and up
- will cover equipment including:
  - mobility devices and accessibility equipment
  - seating and positioning devices • bathing aids
  - orthopedic devices

416.488.2699 / 1-800 – 567 – 2873

[www.muscle.ca/ontario-nunavut/services/mobility-equipment-program.html](http://www.muscle.ca/ontario-nunavut/services/mobility-equipment-program.html)

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# Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (OFCP)

All ages, living in Ontario, with cerebral palsy

## 1. Assistive Devices Funding Program

- help to purchase and lease equipment
  - communication and writing aids
  - electronic aids for daily living
  - enteral feeding equipment
  - home accessibility, bathing and washroom aids
  - check complete list on the website

416 - 244 – 9689 Ext. 234

[www.ofcp.on.ca](http://www.ofcp.on.ca)

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# OCFP (continued)

## 2. Vacation Funding Assistance Program

Categories of vacations funded include:

- camps
- overnight and weekend trips
- weekly trips
- day trips
- package excursions

Maximum funding is \$1000

416 – 244 – 9686 Ext. 226

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# OFCP (continued)

## 3. Day Program Funding Assistance Program

Funding to attend a community activity or program

- a complete list of programs and activities on the website
- categories include:
  - literacy programs and tutoring; computer program
  - physical recreation
  - leisure activities: arts and crafts
  - skills training and employment programs

416 – 244 – 9686 Ext. 226

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# Ontario March of Dimes: Home & Vehicle Modification Program

- Grant up to \$ 15,000 for **home modifications**
- Grant up to \$ 15,000 every 10 years for **vehicle modification**

## Eligibility:

- permanent Ontario resident
- ongoing or recurring disability for more than one year
  - disability must affect greatly on mobility and activities
  - grant amounts are based on family income

1 – 877 – 369 - 4867

[www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/hvmp/Pages/HomeandVehicle.aspx](http://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/hvmp/Pages/HomeandVehicle.aspx)

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# President's Choice Children's Charity

- Helps children under 18 with physical or developmental disabilities
- Family income is \$70,000 or less
- Offers direct financial assistance for:
  - mobility equipment & therapy
  - renovations and accessible modifications

1 – 866 – 996 -9918

[www.presidentschoice.ca/LCLOnline/documents/donation/Form.pdf](http://www.presidentschoice.ca/LCLOnline/documents/donation/Form.pdf)

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# Other options...

## Lions Club

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/lci-foundation/grants/index.php>

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) funding is provided in the form of grants to Lions districts in support of Lions projects.

**Make A Wish Foundation** Phone: 416-223-2620

Any child aged 3 - 17-years-old with a *life-threatening illness* may be eligible this organization to grant them their wish.

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# More Options...

## Starlight Children's Foundation Canada

- wishes granted to children 4-18
- with a serious illness

905-752-7827

# More Options

## Sunshine Foundation

- for 3 to 19 years (not yet turned 20) years of age.
- severe physical disability or life threatening condition
- able express, explain or communicate their own dream without technical assistance
- dream or wish has not been granted from a similar organization
  - may have participated in a Sunshine Dreamlift
- 1 – 800 - 461-7935

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# How to Ask for Help

## Write a supporting letter

see sample letter [\(link to letter\)](#)

- most charities do have application forms
- provide background information to support request
- say clearly what you need

# What to Include in a Letter

## Section 1 : Short Introduction

- include the date
- refer to the name of organization/charity
- briefly introduce reason for letter
- your relationship to person who is asking for assistance
  - yourself
  - your child

# Letter ( continued )

## Section 2 : Description of your child

- make it clear and simple
- avoid medical language
- include a positive note about your child
  - what does your child like to do?
  - what is your child good at?
  - how this will help your child
    - participate in things he/she enjoys
    - encourages child to be more active

# Letter ( continued )

## Section 3: What you are asking for and why ?

- funding for: equipment, therapy, modifications, etc.
- specific name of what is needed
  - seat for the bathtub
  - button to operate a toy
- include reference to professional recommendations
- why is this needed:
  - how will it help?
  - what are the benefits?

# Letter ( continued )

## Section 4: How much do you need to pay?

- include the specific cost
- is it covered by any other programs?
  - tell what other sources you have approached
  - tell if it is not covered by other sources

# Letter ( continued )

## Section 5: Your situation now

How is your situation affecting this expense?

- does your family have other major expenses
- does your family have more expenses
- does your family have to pay for other services,

Note supporting documents you are including

- therapist recommendation
- estimate
- photo

# Letter ( continued )

## Section 6: Other things to include

- photo of your child
- photo of the equipment
- copy of the estimate
- recommendation from a professional
- list other documents you are including

# Letter ( continued )

## Section 7: How to contact you

- Tell how best to contact you
  - phone number: home and work / cell
  - email address
  - return address
  - time when you can be reached

## Remember to:

- ❑ make a copy of the application
- ❑ use one copy as a rough copy
- ❑ use clear printing or writing
- ❑ use easy to understand language
- ❑ take your time answer the questions or write the letter
- ❑ leave the finished application or letter for a day or so
- ❑ review application or again ( ask someone else to read it over )
- ❑ add more information; use another sheet of paper if needed

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# Fall Workshops

## September:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Services At Home Application

## October:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Preparing a Will and Guardianship
- 15<sup>th</sup> Registered Disability Savings Plan

## November:

- 16<sup>th</sup> Family Resource Centre Open House
- 26<sup>th</sup> Going to College or University  
*for students in the OSSD program*
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ontario Disability Support Program Application

# Thank you!

For information on other topics and general questions about resources, please call

the Holland Bloorview Telephone Warmline:

1 – 877 – 463 – 0365

[resourcecentre@hollandbloorview.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@hollandbloorview.ca)

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Check the Holland Bloorview

Online Resource Centre

<http://www.hollandbloorview.ca/resourcecentre/index/php>

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