

FAMILY SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT? The Family Support Grant Program provides cash grants to families of children, under 25 years of age, with a disability. The goal of the program is to prevent or delay the out-of-home placement of children and promote family health and social well-being by enabling access family-centered services and supports.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Families of children with a certified disability, under age 25, living in the family home and determined by a screening team to be a risk of placement are eligible for the program. Expenditures between ages 21 through 24 must be transition related expenses. As of **January 1, 2020**, families must have an **annual adjusted gross income that is less than \$107,800 per year. (The income ceiling is adjusted per State bulletins.)**

Currently, people receiving any MA waiver, Personal Care Attendant (PCA) or Consumer Support Grant are not eligible for the Family Support Grant Program.

HOW MUCH CAN A FAMILY RECEIVE? Annual grant of up to \$3,113.99, or monthly grant of \$259.49.

HOW CAN THE GRANT BE USED? The grant must be spent on services and items that are directly related to caring for the child with a disability. Only expenses that are over and above the normal costs of caring for the child if the child did not have a disability may be covered.

Allowable expense categories include:

<i>Computers</i>	<i>Respite Care</i>
<i>Day Care</i>	<i>Specialized Clothing</i>
<i>Educational Services</i>	<i>Specialized Dietary Needs</i>
<i>Medical Services</i>	<i>Specialized Equipment or Modifications</i>
<i>Medications</i>	<i>Transportation</i>

** Family Support Grants may not be used for purchases covered by other funding sources, such as private insurance and Medical Assistance. See Dakota County CDS Expenditure Guide for more information on allowable expenditures.*

HOW DO FAMILIES RECEIVE THE GRANT? Families can receive the grant in several ways.

1. Ongoing Grant Monthly: This type of grant is for families who have ongoing needs and expenses that occur on a regular basis, such as respite care.
2. One Time Lump Sum Grant: This type of grant is for families who want to apply part or all of an ongoing grant towards the cost of one or more specific high cost items, such as adaptive devices, special equipment and home modifications. Ongoing lump sum grants are limited to \$3,113.99 per year.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Families must retain receipts for all expenses for five (5) years.
- Ongoing grants are typically available to a family on an ongoing basis each fiscal year through the annual renewal process, as long as their child remains eligible for the program.

HOW DO FAMILIES APPLY? Families can contact their local County social worker or Team C to request an application.

Additional information, FSG guides and forms can be found online at: www.dakotacounty.us and search for *Family Support Grant*

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