

Funding Training and Conferences

Conferences and trainings offer families opportunities to learn, recharge, and connect with other families. Funding assistance for trainings and conferences may be available for families of CYSHCN. Funding resources include:

Governor's Council for People with Disabilities (GCPD) Consumer Investment Fund: The Consumer Investment Fund program offered by the GCPD allows persons with disabilities and their families to participate in conferences and events. In return, supported participants commit to share information learned and contribute to the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of people with disabilities. Funds must be matched 50/50 unless the participant receives SSI, SSDI, or TANF. Guidelines and an application can be found here: <http://www.in.gov/gpcpd/2328.htm>

Medicaid Waiver Family and Caregiver Training Program: Anyone who receives the Family Supports Waiver or Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver may opt to spend up to \$2,000 of their yearly budget for Family and Caregiver Training. The funds may be used to provide training and education to parents, family members, or non-paid caregivers at workshops and conferences. The Arc of Indiana's Family and Caregiver Training Services Program can make this process easier and more accessible. More details are available on their website, <http://arcind.org/supports-services/family-caregiver-training/>.

IEP Parent Training: Parent training is a service that is available as a supportive related service under a student's IEP. The training must be approved by the case conference committee and must be written into the IEP. The training is provided at no cost to the parent.

Conference Scholarships: Many conference hosts are aware that paying for conference expenses is burdensome to some families, and scholarships or reduced fees based on ability to pay are often offered. Before registering for a conference, ask about scholarship and grant opportunities. Maximize discounts, such as lodging or transportation discounts, offered in conjunction with the conference.

Diagnosis-Specific Grants or Scholarships: Small, local, diagnosis-specific groups may offer grants or scholarships to state or national conferences. These groups occasionally request a follow-up report be given to the local group.

Other Grants: Hannah and Friends provides up to \$500 for educational conferences. Guidelines and applications are available here: <http://www.hannahandfriends.org/>.

Local Service Groups: Lion's Club, Kiwanis, and other service groups occasionally accept applications for family needs, such as trainings.

Please note: Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This Fact Sheet was updated April 2016. Please check with Family Voices Indiana (www.fvindiana.org) for the most recent edition.

To learn more about these and other programs, contact Family Voices Indiana. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services, especially those available to individuals with special health care needs.
317-944-8982
Fvindiana.org