

Finding Funding Resources for Families and Programs

Finding funding sources can be one of the most challenging parts of supporting families with special needs and responsibilities. We all know that there are limited resources available and families who are newly diagnosed may not know where to start. Community waitlists are often long and in some communities, families may be posted out before they move up the list. This means that we need to be creative when working with families. Before looking for funding, the first place to start is to identify the family's needs and then you can help them navigate the potential resource options.

Finding Funding: A Problem-Solving Process

1. Assess the Needs:
 - a. Share responsibility with the family: identify the strengths that the family brings; ensure they are involved in the process;
 - b. Assess short and long term goals: what are the immediate and longer term issues; is this a trend that you're seeing in the community? (e.g. respite care)
 - c. Clarify what they need: e.g. a tutor, educational equipment, educational assessment, respite care. What can the MFRC provide right now to get started (e.g. referral, information handout, resource library, parent network). What can you explore together?

2. Generate Ideas:
 - a. MFRC programs and services: e.g. Emergency Respite Child Care; Casual Child Care;
 - b. Service organizations: e.g. the Legion, Lions, Elks;
 - c. Community network: connect with other agencies in the community to generate ideas; participate in community organizations;
 - d. Foundations: find out if there are foundations that you can apply to for funding;
 - e. Fund-raising: hold a fund-raising event for a specific cause.

3. Create a plan:
 - a. Do your research: e.g. find out what kinds of services a foundation funds; the guidelines for the applications;
 - b. Continue to share responsibility with the family: divide tasks involved in getting and filling out applications as well as following up;
 - c. Create a diversified plan: look for funding from different sources;
 - d. If the best option is for program development at the MFRC:
 - i. Be specific: e.g. if you're developing a respite program, what are the timelines, who will qualify?
 - ii. Be realistic: e.g. cost of equipment, staffing;
 - iii. Build in an evaluation process: provide details of how you will evaluate whether your plan is working.

4. Take action:
 - a. Implement the plan
 - b. Document your progress

5. Follow up:
 - a. Evaluate the plan
 - b. Consider your next steps.

Sleuthing the Funding Options

Respite is not the only issue that requires funding. Quite often equipment, learning resources, renovations, etc require extra dollars. The following represents a list of options that could be researched to see if funding for the families specific need is available. These ideas were the result of a panel workshop at the 2007 Navigator conference. The panel members and the workshop participants brainstormed to create the list. It is designed to assist you in “creatively sleuthing” for options when working with your families. Many of the options will be accessible to all CF communities. Remember to use the navigator community of practice if you want to see if anyone has had any particular luck with any of these resources.

CF Resources

- Legion Poppy Fund – check with you local legion to inquire about accessibility
- Army, Air Force and Navy Benevolent Funds – check with your local Command for contact information
- CDS Military Families Fund – brand new resource under development – we are still awaiting criteria
- Chaplains – some units have access or information about compassionate funds
- SISIP Financial Services – there is a \$100 one-time Minor Disbursement grant available for CF members and access to low interest loans (check with your local SISIP office for more information)
- CF Messes will sometimes make donations to families in need

General Community Resources

- Variety Fund - Emergency Response Fund
- Presidents Choice Charity, Loblaws for 18 & up
- Respitality Victoria – Respite for parents at local hotels – Can the idea of respitality be developed in your community?
- Special sitters – organizations within your community that can provide a respite care sitter
- Connect with your local Community Living Society – this agency has information on respite options in your community

What Ideas/Programs Have Other MFRC's had Funding Success With?

- Spinoza Bears – Donation from the Naval Veterans Association – these are Bears that assist children dealing with illness, stress or loss. There are audiotapes for children of military families. (each Bear kit costs approx \$300)
- Service Groups – Legion, Navy Vets, Retired Organizations, Elks, Lions, Kinsmen, Rotary
- Community Network – Get out there, get yourself known and get yourself in the information loop - Great Networking = Great Connections
- Foundations – find out who they are in your community. Check local & provincial foundations
- Hold Fundraising events – Raise money for a specific issue, program or resource (open an emergency trust account that will provide funds when no other options are available)
- Victoria Foundation - This foundation provided \$ for respite care for families with special needs and responsibilities who were dealing with a deployment
- Create a diversified plan - are there more than one organization/funding opportunity that can assist
- Ronald MacDonald House
- Tim Hortons
- Jean Coutu – (Quebec)
- Book of Granting Bodies
- Canadian Center for Philanthropy
- Imagine Canada
- United Way
- Christmas Cheer Fund – Kingston, Supports families with special needs all year round
- HRDC – supported Borden MFRC with financing an inclusion worker
- Planned lifetime Advocacy Network
- Registered Federal Disability Savings Plan
- Education Fund through SISIP – loan @ 3% interest rate, full time post secondary for member, spouse or family. \$4000/yr
- McCreary Foundation

What Could We Work On Collectively

- National Fund – To access funding for respite during deployment;
- “Pass on Nuggets” – When you find a good resource, pass it on through the community of practice;
- Think big, think collectively.

If you want to add to this list or have some specific information about a specific resource that we could update, please contact the Navigator at mfrc.navigator@shawcable.com