

# Bear Essentials program

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HELP *fill a* DREAM

children's  
HEALTH FOUNDATION  
OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

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## Guidelines

The Bear Essentials Program helps to cover expenses for Vancouver Island kids who have medical conditions, health challenges or disabilities and where the family requires financial support to cover the cost.

Applications must be:

- ✓ For children/youth aged 0 to 19
- ✓ For children/youth who are residents of Vancouver Island or surrounding Islands
- ✓ For children/youth with disabilities or health challenges
- ✓ Referred by an independent, third party health care professional

## Types of requests

Bear Essentials support is available to help cover:

- ✓ Travel costs associated with receiving health care that is unavailable in a child/youth's home community e.g. transportation, parking, food, accommodation
- ✓ Medical or therapeutic equipment to address special needs e.g. Orthotics, insulin pump, specialized seating
- ✓ Therapeutic resources to support a child/youth e.g. Specialized formula, non-insured medications

Families may have more than one application submitted on their behalf during their child's lifetime and may be eligible for up to **\$10,000** in cumulative funding.

## Completing the application form

### Step 1:

Referring professional works with the family to complete the application. If you don't have an application form please contact a program manager to obtain one:

Email: [beare@helpfilladream.com](mailto:beare@helpfilladream.com) Telephone: 250-382-3135

Toll free: 1-866-382-2711 Fax: 250-382-2711

All applications must include:

- ✓ Complete contact information
- ✓ Signed consent to share information between the referring professional and the Bear Essentials Partners (Help Fill A Dream and Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island)
- ✓ The amount of funding being requested

\*We encourage families to share their stories about the Bear Essentials program to let our donors know the difference they are making in the lives of children. Please ask families to consider signing the 'share your story' portion of the application.

### **Step 2:**

Ensure supporting documentation is included with the application e.g. medical or therapy appointment schedule, quotes for equipment etc.

### **Step 3:**

Submit application to:

Email: beare@helpfilladream.com Fax: 250-382-2711

### **Next steps**

You can expect acknowledgement of application within 5 business days and a program manager will be in touch to discuss next steps.

Once an application has been approved, funding will be paid to the goods or services provider where applicable or to the family where appropriate.

### **Complementary funding and support**

The Bear Essentials Program is intended to fill the gaps that exist with current health care programs. We encourage you to access, where applicable, the publicly available resources listed below to complement Bear Essentials funding. The Bear Essentials Program Manager is available to assist you with navigating these resources.

#### **Ministry of Children and Families**

[Autism Funding](#) – funding for autism intervention services and therapies

[At Home Program](#) - support children and teens with a severe disability or complex health care needs

#### **Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction**

[Healthy Kids Program](#) - basic dental treatment, optical care and hearing assistance for children in low-income families

## Ministry of Health

[Medical Services Plan \(MSP\)](#) - covers the cost of medically-necessary insured doctor services

[Pharmacare](#) - helps B.C. residents with the cost of eligible prescription drugs, certain medical supplies, and pharmacy services

[Travel Assistance Program](#) - helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible B.C. residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services

[BC Family Residence Program](#) - accommodation assistance to enable families to stay together when their child requires medical care at BC Children's Hospital or Sunny Hill Health Centre

## First Nations Health Authority

- [Medical Supplies and Equipment](#) - medical equipment and supplies for personal use
- [Pharmacy](#) - prescription drugs, over the counter drugs and compounds
- [Dental](#) - covers eligible dental treatments
- [Vision Care](#) - covers eye exams and eyeglasses