

QUEEN ALEXANDRA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

BEAR ESSENTIALS FUND DESCRIPTION

The Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children has established the Bear Essentials Fund. The purpose of the fund is to assist children and youth with special needs aged 0-19 and their families on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands who are experiencing financial hardship and/or short-term crisis.

Applications to this fund must be for:

- ❑ Children or youth from 0-19 (preference is given to those children and youth with special needs) and their families; and
- ❑ Resident of Vancouver Island or the Gulf Islands for at least three months; and
- ❑ Financially at risk – family annual income is insufficient to cover the items in this application.

Examples of eligible expenditures from the fund include emergency food, travel to care appointments, clothing and toiletries, short-term shelter costs, translation fees to understand caregivers, adventure therapy outings, personal items (eg car seats, eyeglasses, educational DVDs, Braille or hearing resources), medical or therapeutic equipment to address special needs and other unanticipated expenses vital to well-being.

The Bear Essentials Fund allows families to cover unexpected or extraordinary expenses until other community resources can be mobilized to help. Social workers or other service providers can provide information on other sources of funding. The Fund can also assist families who do not meet the criteria of community social agencies and have 'fallen between the cracks.'

Staff designated by the Vancouver Island Health Authority's (VIHA) Director of Child, Youth and Family Health or the Executive Director of either a Child or Infant Development Centre on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands may apply to the fund on behalf of their clients. Completed application forms should be submitted to authorized signators for approval. Applications are accepted throughout the year.





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BEAR ESSENTIALS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

INSTRUCTIONS:

This form is to be completed by an employee designated by the VIHA Director of Child, Youth and Family Health or the Executive Director of a Vancouver Island or Gulf Island Child or Infant Development Centre as eligible to apply to the fund. Please complete this form on behalf of your clients and send to the authorized signators below.

Name of child/family: _____

Is this a child/youth with special needs: _____ **yes** _____ **no**

This is a request for:

- emergency food
- travel to care appointments
- clothing and toiletries
- short-term shelter costs
- translation fees to understand professional caregivers' instructions
- adventure therapy outings
- personal items such as car seats, eyeglasses, educational DVDs, Braille or hearing resources)
- medical or therapeutic equipment to address special needs
- other unanticipated expenses vital to well-being (please provide details here):

Total amount requested _____

**Minimum of \$100 per request with a maximum of \$1,000
per child/youth/family per lifetime.
Requests for equipment can exceed this limit.**

How will this money be used? (Please provide a breakdown e.g. camp fees, food vouchers etc):

Have all other sources of possible revenue been applied to including (check all appropriate sources that have been requested to fund this application):

- AT HOME program
- BC Medical Plan
- Pharmacare
- MCFD
- Ministry of employment and Income Assistance
- Family Independence or Child and Youth Funds
- Autism Funding
- Personal resources including Extended Health Plan
- Other government funding sources
- Variety Club
- BC Children's Hospital
- Help Fill a Dream
- Any other charitable funders (e.g. service clubs, KidsSport, President's Choice, C-FAX Santas Anonymous, other foundations). Please specify names here:

What was the total amount of funding granted by all these organizations towards this request?

Without assistance from the Bear Essentials Fund, what are the anticipated outcomes for this request as they pertain to the child/youth/family?

Please ensure the family signs the attached consent forms prior to submitting this application to the Director Child Youth and Family Health or to the Executive Director of your Child or Infant Development Centre.

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BEAR ESSENTIALS CONSENT FORM TO BE SIGNED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

The Bear Essentials Fund consists entirely of donations – no government funding is included in this fund. The Bear Essentials Fund is only possible because people donate to it through the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children.

To ensure the Bear Essentials Fund continues to grow so it can help children, youth and families, the Queen Alexandra Foundation undertakes fundraising campaigns to add to the fund throughout the year. You can help by sharing your story with the Foundation about how the fund has helped your child/youth or family.

Signing the attached consent form allows VIHA and/or the Child or Infant Development Centres to share your name and story with the Queen Alexandra Foundation. Signing this consent form does not influence the review of your application, but assists the Foundation with its fundraising efforts to ensure the Bear Essentials Fund can continue to help children, youth and families.

The Child, Youth and Family Health Portfolio of the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Infant and Child Development Centres on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands adhere to all privacy legislation in keeping applications to the Bear Essentials Fund confidential.

“We (I) agree to help other families on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands by helping the Queen Alexandra Foundation raise money for the Bear Essentials Fund by sharing our story.”

- Yes
- No

Your name, address and phone number

Signature _____ Date _____

“We (I) authorize the Vancouver Island Health Authority/Child or Infant Development Centre to share our contact information with the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children.”

- Yes
- No

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you!

