

# Things to do *before* applying for a grant.

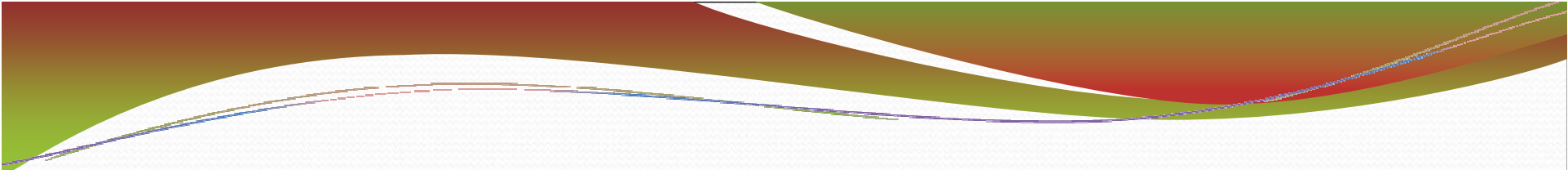
- W-2's for past two years.
- Denial letter from insurance provider.
- Itemized bill for services or item requesting grant for.
- Brief paragraph of “How this diagnosis has affected your life.”
- Brief paragraph of “How this therapy or item will help your child/family.”
- Always research your funding source.

# How do families apply?

- Follow the grant application directions EXACTLY as written.
  - Be sure to submit only COMPLETED applications.
  - No re-submitting or adding additional information later!
- Include supporting print material
  - diagnosis information
  - alternative therapy
  - statistics
- Make it Personal
  - photos of child (school photos, doing activity, with family, etc.)
  - have child write or draw activity, item requested, or something personal to them.
  - Have the child decorate the envelope or provide a personalized postage stamp

# How do families apply? (cont.)

- BE HONEST
  - about where else you have looked for funding.
  - about how you plan on paying for continued therapy
    - \*\*\*SOME companies will verify information!!!\*\*\*
- Personal stories are nice but not always required.



To personalize your application, include your family story or essay, even if the application does not require one.

- **WHY?**

- Writing your story can be healing for you and your spouse/family.
- Most grants/scholarships will require this story.
- Spending time and effort on writing your story one time will save you time in all your grant applications.
- Such an essay/story can be attached to your IEP, can go with you to Development Pediatrician visits, can provide insight for therapists/teachers, send to family members as an opportunity to discuss your child's disability.

- **HOW?**



# Tips and suggestions that have worked

- Develop relationships
  - HR of employer
  - Insurance company
  - Doctor's office
  - Service provider
  - Other families by sharing your story, staying at therapy, and joining support groups.
  - Joining funding organizations monthly newsletter or e-mail list.