

**creating** connections, **inspiring** possibilities

Dear Parent/Guardians:

We'd like to welcome you to the 2020 Family Support Services Program (FSS). This program is designed to provide support in a variety of areas that relate to the needs of individuals with a developmental disability living with their family.

Enclosed is your 2020 F.S.S. application. Please complete and return along with a **NEW verification of income**. Be sure to **mail back** all original forms for we are **no longer** able to accept scanned or emailed copies of these forms. All forms need to be returned before any 2020 funds can be released.

The amount families are allotted is **dependent upon when all required paperwork is received. More importantly, funds are based on availability.**

**On the back of this page is an overview of the areas that will be considered for reimbursement. We ask that you review these closely as there are changes in some categories.**

Based on the Department of Developmental Disabilities Guidelines (on the part of Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities), **prior approval is needed** to ensure guidelines are met for any and all purchases and or purchase request. We must ensure that each request meets the State guidelines of supporting the individual. **All requests will be considered, however, your request may not be approved.**

**Please note the deadline to submit 2020 invoice/ reimbursement invoices will be November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, therefore please plan accordingly.**

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (419) 381-6139.

Sincerely,

Vicky Lambert  
Enclosure

## **Eligibility:**

Each individual receiving service from the Family Support Program must be eligible for services from the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Eligibility is established upon the first request for services and is re-determined at age 3, age 6, and at age 16. For eligibility requirements please contact our intake office at 419-381-8320.

## **Allowance:**

The Family Support Program operates on a calendar year basis beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Maximum funding amount year to year is based on LCBDD funding for this program and number of families served.

The available amount of funding depends on the families reported taxable income. Families may be subject to a co-pay based on their reported income. This is not an entitlement program. Allowances for families joining or rejoining the program during the calendar year will be prorated. Family Support will not fund any services provided prior to enrollment or while not enrolled in the program.

## **Services:**

### ***SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT:***

Special equipment may be available upon the recommendation of any of the following professionals: Physician, Occupational, Physical therapist, or Speech Language Pathologist. Therapist must complete a Professional recommendation describing how items relate to the individual's developmental disability. Typical toys are not considered specialized equipment and will not be purchased under this program. Keep in mind that that all professional requests will be considered however your request may not be approved. We must ensure that each request meets the State guidelines of supporting the individual at home.

Examples of items that may be funded are:

- Sensory items
- Therapy Balls
- Orthotics
- Communication devices
- Weighted blankets/ vest
- Adaptive utensils/plates
- Adaptive strollers for children 3 and above
- Adapted car seats

### ***COUNSELING, TRAINING, THERAPY, AND EDUCATION:***

Therapy, structured lessons (adaptive swimming, therapeutic riding/ music therapy etc.), workshops, or seminars that are not covered by insurance may be eligible to an individual, family member, and or caregivers. The program may also cover the cost of co-pays.

### ***SPECIAL DIETS:***

Specialized nutrition that complements a meal and which is required to meet daily calorie intake may be covered. This includes supplements, vitamins, and prescriptions that are recommended by a Professional and prescribed in relation to the individual's disability. Special diets could include food required for a particular diagnosis in addition to formula for children over the age of one year.

### ***CAMP ASSISTANCE:***

Camp assistance may be available for use at a specialized camp only.

***RESPITE CARE:***

This is designed to allow a short interval of relief for the caregiver. This is **NOT** regular individual (child/adult) care. The Family Selected Provider is limited to **10 hours per month per family**, up to \$10 per hour. The Provider cannot be a parent/guardian or someone acting in that role; or other individual (s) currently living in the home. Training for this provider is provided by the family. Each Family Chosen Provider **MUST** complete a Family Selected Provider Responsibility Waiver. Another option is Community Facilities. **The family must contact FSS at (419)381-6139 to obtain prior approval for any request exceeding 10 hours per month from a private provider and for approval no later than 2 weeks prior to use respite at a Community Facility.**

***HOME MODIFICATION:***

This includes changes that will improve and aid in accessibility for the individual. Examples: ramps, porch lifts, van lifts or bathroom modifications. A minimum of 2 estimates are required for pre-approval. Before and after photos are required to verify completion of work. If you live in a rental home, written permission from your landlord is required.

***OTHER:***

Medical expenses not covered by insurance and related to the individual's disability. Items not covered in one of the above categories are considered on an individual basis. The requested item/service must relate to the needs of the individual's disability. Diapers and wipes (individuals over the age of 3) that are not covered by insurance may be reimbursed based on the need of the individual. A physician's prescription certifying that the individual is incontinent is required on an annual basis.

Requests dated prior to receipt of the 2020 Income Eligibility form and proof of income, **will not** be granted.

Based on Department of Developmental Disability Guidelines (on the part of the Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities), prior approval is needed to ensure that adequate funds are available.

If there is another source of income for your family member, i.e., an Individual Options Waiver (IO), Level One Waiver, or Individual Budget, they will not be eligible for the FSS Program.

**Please note all requests must be submitted within 30 days of service/purchase.** Items must be reimbursed in the fiscal year in which they were purchased. The income level is based on your taxable income; this is your income minus your deductions when you file your Federal taxes.