



powered by Help Fill A Dream &  
Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island

---

## 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 (pre-birth) to 19 (until the youth's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- ✓ 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

Referring professionals include:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Hospital social workers
- Island Health dental hygienists
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational therapists
- Speech and language pathologists
- Infant development consultant
- Supported child development consultant

\*Referring professional must complete the application form. Applications completed by families will not be accepted.

## 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 - **please see the travel funding table.**

**Note: In the instance of a healthy pregnancy that requires temporary relocation outside the home community for delivery, funding is capped at \$1,000. Families may reapply for relocation support with subsequent pregnancies.**

- 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 and 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.

**Please reference the travel funding table for recommended allowances at the end of this document in appendix A.**

## **Completing the application form**

### **Step 1:**

Referring professional works with the family to complete the application - **application must be completed in full by the referring professional.**

If there are multiple children in a family who require Bear Essentials support, a separate application is required for each.

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

**Applications should be typed or legibly printed.**

\*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:**

A complete narrative to support the request is required in this section. 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.

**Before submitting your application:** Have you considered the following complementary resources?

### 1. An extended health benefits plan through place of employment

#### 2. 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.

#### 3. Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction

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

#### 4. Ministry of Health

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

[Pharmacare](#) - helps BC 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 BC 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.

#### 5. 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.

## **6. Government of Canada**

[Jordan's Principle](#) – supports First Nations children to access products, services, and supports they need. It can help with a wide range of health, social, and educational needs.

## **7. Community organizations**

[YANA \(You Are Not Alone\) – Comox Valley](#)

[Cameryn's Cause for Kids – Campbell River](#)

## Appendix A: Travel funding table

	Campbell River	Comox Valley	Cowichan Valley	North West Coast	Greater Nanaimo	Port Alberni	North Island	West Coast	Vancouver	Capital Regional District	Oceanside
	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem	Mileage & Per Diem
Campbell River	X										
Comox Valley	\$ 55	X									
Cowichan Valley	\$ 97	\$ 85	X								
North West Coast	\$ 65	\$ 81	\$ 122	X							
Greater Nanaimo	\$ 83	\$ 71	\$ 54	\$ 109	X						
Port Alberni	\$ 82	\$ 69	\$ 78	\$ 106	\$ 64	X					
North Island	\$ 108	\$ 124	\$ 163	\$ 92	\$ 149	\$ 148	X				
West Coast	\$ 116	\$ 103	\$ 112	\$ 140	\$ 98	\$ 75	\$ 181	X			
Vancouver	\$ 118	\$ 105	\$ 90	\$ 142	\$ 74	\$ 98	\$ 183	\$ 132	X		
Capital Regional District	\$ 114	\$ 102	\$ 57	\$ 139	\$ 71	\$ 95	\$ 182	\$ 128	\$ 78	X	
Oceanside	\$ 71	\$ 58	\$ 67	\$ 96	\$ 53	\$ 52	\$ 96	\$ 86	\$ 83	\$ 84	X

**The regions listed above include, but are not limited to, the following communities:**

Comox Valley - Cumberland, Comox, Courtenay, Denman, Hornby  
 Campbell River and District - Quadra, Cortes, Sayward  
 Greater Nanaimo - Lantzville, Cedar, Ladysmith  
 Oceanside - Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Coombs  
 West Coast - Tofino, Ucluelet, Bamfield  
 North West Coast - Gold River, Tahsis, Zeballos  
 North Island - Port McNeil, Port Hardy, Port Alice  
 Cowichan Valley - Duncan, Crofton, Cowichan, Mill Bay, Cobble Hill, Chemainus  
 Capital Regional District - Victoria, Sooke, Sidney, Southern Gulf Islands

\*\* If you are unsure which region to use to calculate travel funding please contact a Bear Essentials Program Manager.

\*\*\*Funding for additional days is \$40 per diem for all regions.