



Family Hope Foundation

Family Hope Foundation
7086 8th Avenue
Jenison, MI 49428
616.729.8833
www.thefamilyhopefoundation.org

Scholarship Guidelines

Reading these Guidelines is required **BEFORE** completing the application

General Information:

Purpose: To assist families of individuals impacted by disability by providing financial assistance for therapy related services that may not otherwise be covered by insurance or other funding sources.

Types of Support: Examples of eligible therapy related services include, but are not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, music therapy, Anat Baniel Method, hippotherapy, Applied Behavioral Analysis, psychology and psychiatry.

Expectations and Limitations: Applicants **MUST** have a medical diagnosis from a licensed physician or psychiatrist **BEFORE** applying. Scholarship funds **cannot** be used for past-due balances, respite-type activities, evaluations, or missed appointment fees. No scholarships are given for organizations/businesses, fundraising drives, medication, transportation, technology, equipment, or travel expenses.

Geographic Focus: Scholarships are awarded to families residing in the following counties in West Michigan: Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Ionia, Newaygo, Montcalm, Van Buren, and Calhoun.

Scholarship Amounts and Payment: Scholarships will be awarded in amounts up to and including \$1,000 with special consideration given to those who have not previously received funds from Family Hope Foundation. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the approved therapy provider. Funds will not be distributed in cash and will not be given to the recipient.

Approved Therapy Providers: Family Hope Foundation forms a partnership with each therapy provider who receives funding for a scholarship recipient. Providers must meet the Family Hope Foundation “Provider Guidelines” requirements and be approved by the Board of Directors as a Community Partner. To see a list of currently approved Therapy Provider Partners, visit our website at www.thefamilyhopefoundation.org, under Scholarships.

Other: Applications will be accepted and considered without regard to sex, religion, ethnic background, race or national origin. However, the recipient must meet criteria for therapy in order to receive the scholarship.

Contact Information: If you have questions regarding the application process or scholarship program, contact Family Hope Foundation at (616)729-8833 or madeline.puckett@thefamilyhopefoundation.org.

Application Process Information

Application Due Dates: Applications will be accepted, and funds distributed, twice a year. Our Spring Cycle opens January 1 and applications are due by February 1 at midnight. Our Fall Cycle opens July 1 and applications are due by August 1 at midnight. If the deadline is on a weekend or holiday, applications will be due the following business day at midnight. Changes to due dates will be clearly communicated.

Application Submission:

- ✓ Applications must be completed and **received** by midnight on the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- ✓ Applications do not roll-over to the next scholarship cycle and must be resubmitted each time a scholarship is desired.

After Applying: Applicants will be notified within two months of the application deadline as to whether their scholarship request is being fulfilled.

Completing the Application Form:

Every question must be answered, according to the directions, for the application to be complete. Incomplete applications will be penalized or not considered for funding.

Application Process Help– (Online Application)

Instructions for our online application can be found on our website at www.thefamilyhopefoundation.com/scholarships. Please reach out to our new help email, help@thefamilyhopefoundation.org, with any questions or concerns.

Application Process Help– (Paper Application)

Narratives:

Questions 8, 11, and 24 are narrative (essay) questions that allow you to tell us more about who the applicant is, how they will benefit from therapy, and why the scholarship is needed. This information is extremely helpful to our scholarship committee as they make decisions on scholarship awards. Please be thoughtful and thorough when completing these questions.

Applicant Information:

Question 1: The “applicant” refers to the individual who will benefit from the therapy being requested. For historic scholarship tracking purposes, please include any former names that the applicant has had.

Question 2: Please verify that the applicant has received a formal diagnosis.

Question 3: Please list the formal **primary and secondary (if applicable) diagnoses or disabilities**. The applicant must have a diagnosis from a physician, psychologist or psychiatrist **BEFORE** applying. Please note: if you are selected to receive a scholarship you will be asked to provide proof of diagnosis.

Question 4: Please indicate any and all other diagnoses the applicant has received.

Question 5-6: Please enter the applicant's date of birth and gender.

Question 7. Please indicate the applicant's race/ethnicity, selecting all that apply.

Question 8: (Narrative) Tell us about who the applicant is as a person: likes/dislikes, disposition, hobbies, etc. This is an opportunity to introduce the applicant to the scholarship committee.

Therapy Information:

Question 9: List ALL therapies, including what you are applying for, in this section. Indicate if the applicant is currently receiving them in school (S) and/or privately (P).

Question 10: Indicate the specific type(s) of therapy for which you choose to use the scholarship.

Question 11: (Narrative) Explain how the applicant will benefit from the therapy you are seeking a scholarship for. Explain how this therapy has helped the applicant in the past, or if the therapy is new, explain the goals you have for therapy.

Question 12a: Indicate the out-of-pocket cost to you of receiving the therapy that will be supported by a scholarship over a 6-month period. For example, if a therapy costs the applicant \$100 per session after insurance or discounts, and the applicant would ideally receive 4 sessions per month, the total cost would be \$2400 for 6 months. For experiences that are charged as a package, like a therapy camp or 6-week horse therapy session, list the total registration cost. Please give your best estimate of your cost, and use the optional Therapy Cost Comments box below if you want to let us know details about how you arrived at this number. Our goal is to understand your full out-of-pocket cost so we can understand how much of an impact our scholarship can make for you.

Question 12b: This question is optional. You can use it to share any additional information about how this therapy is billed that would help us understand how you calculated the out-of-pocket cost in the question above.

Question 13: List the scholarship amount you would like to receive, not to exceed \$1,000.

Question 14: Check all items that describe the type of medical insurance the applicant has.

Question 15: Check the correct response. You will need to check your insurance policy before answering this question. Always check your exact coverage before you apply. Note that if you are selected to receive a scholarship, you will be required to submit your insurance benefit information **from your insurance carrier.**

Question 16: List the therapy provider you would like to work with. This provider must be an already approved therapy provider listed on our website.

Questions 17 and 18: Identify if you have received an evaluation and/or services from this particular provider.

Applicant Household Information:

Questions 19-20: Identify custodial parents/guardians. If over 18, independent and completing the form yourself, check "Self." Complete all contact information.

Question 21: Please list ALL dependents names and dates of birth living in your household.

Question 22: Indicate whether or not the applicant resides in a group home. If they do, the online form will continue to Question 24. If they do not, Questions 23b-e will appear for you to complete. If completing a paper application, you will be instructed to skip these questions if your answer to Question 23 is "Yes".

Question 22b: Indicate how many dependents live in your home. A dependent is anyone living in your home who is dependent on your income.

Question 22c: Indicate how many adult caregivers, including you, who live in your home. This should include all parents, partners, grandparents, aunts/uncles, adult children, etc. who live in the home and assist with the applicant's care.

Question 22d: Indicate how many additional dependents (NOT including the applicant) in your home have disabilities or diagnoses that require therapy.

Question 22e: Check yes or no appropriately if multiple family members will be applying for a scholarship from Family Hope Foundation.

Question 23: Check the appropriate box that best describes the total/combined annual income for your household.

Question 24: (Narrative) Explain how receiving a therapy scholarship will be financially beneficial to your family. Therapy scholarships are awarded based on need so you must clearly demonstrate a financial need.

Question 25: Indicate whether or not you are willing to receive funds through our *Designated Scholarship Program*. This program allows companies and organizations to sponsor a scholarship recipient. Partnering with other groups allows Family Hope Foundation to raise additional funds and provide assistance to more families. Receiving a scholarship through our Designated Scholarship Program requires the applicant family to:

- ✓ Sign a release that gives us permission to share the applicant's first name, age, disability, story and therapy needs with the sponsoring group to create an individual connection. No personal contact information will be disclosed.
- ✓ Be willing to adhere to the request of the sponsoring group for a personal connection. These requirements vary by sponsoring group, but could be things such as:
 - Send a personal thank you note with a photo to the sponsoring group.
 - Attend a meeting of the group to introduce your child and say thank you.
 - Write a letter after the applicant's therapy is complete, explaining its value and your gratitude.

Question 26: List how you heard about Family Hope Foundation.

Application Verification:

- ✓ Agree to the statements
- ✓ Please indicate who the application was completed by, their relationship to the applicant, and the date completed.