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Sources of Funding / Grants / Free Stuff

From

Missouri Statewide Parent Involvement Network (MoSPIN)

Variety Freedom Program:

[Variety Freedom Program](#)

Variety Freedom Program aims to help kids gain mobility, confidence, freedom, independence and the chance to join in the life of their community by providing funding for families with the most need. Variety's Freedom Program delivers vital life-changing equipment and services for mobility, independence and social inclusion to individual children and children's organizations. Together through the Freedom program, we change children's lives by granting items and services that provide independence, mobility and freedom. Grants under the Freedom program are made to individual children and children's organizations. Covering a wide scope, Freedom grants may cover:

- Manual and powered wheelchairs
- Adaptive bicycles and trikes
- Assistance animals
- Hoists and lifts
- Modified vehicle access
- Standing and walking assistance like gait trainers, walkers, standing frames and positioning systems
- Specialized car seating, shower and toilet chairs, and many more
- My First Bike - A program in which children are presented with a bicycle of their very own, along with a safety helmet, lock and chain. Through our relationships with various agencies, we look for deserving children based upon need, school performance and more.

Equipment

Families residing in Saint Louis, check out [The Arya Foundation](#), providing grants for medical supplies and adaptive equipment.

[WonderBaby Funding](#)

On this site, some of these sources may not be suitable (adults, etc.) yet it is quite comprehensive.

The Swap N' Shop has an iPad listed.

- Helping babies reach greater wonder
- Potty training resources
- Toys and Recreation

- iPad Apps and Accessibility
- Braille and Literacy

Fun Stuff

Challenge Air: A child with a disability can learn to fly a plane!

Dream Factory: dream wishes fulfilled for kids of all different disabilities.

Make-A-Wish: Kids have to have a 'life-threatening condition' and be between the ages of 2.5 and 18 to get their wish of a lifetime.

Sunshine Foundation: dream wishes fulfilled for kids of all different disabilities.

Children's Wish Foundation International: more dream wishes fulfilled.

Free Passes

National Park Service: free lifetime pass to US national parks and more. There are some requirements and stipulations, so read through the application

<https://www.nps.gov/playourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

Some Foundations to Put on Your Radar:

Danielle's Foundation: helping kids with Cerebral Palsy and brain injury gain access to therapies, equipment and other benefits.

Lindsay Foundation: comprehensive help for kids across the disability spectrum (from therapy to equipment and much, much more)

<https://www.thelindseyfoundation.com/>

First Hand Foundation: worldwide. Help in all areas of the disability spectrum, providing assistance to getting a hearing aid or wheelchair to transport to and from therapy.

<https://cpfamilynetwork.org/resources/resources-guide/first-hand-foundation-funding-assistance-medical-necessities/>

ACT Today! : Helping families who have a child on the Autism Spectrum with care and treatment.

<https://www.act-today.org/>

Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism: "helping families live life to the fullest"

Books

National Library Service (for the Blind & Physically Handicapped): free library program of braille and audio materials circulated to eligible borrowers in the United States by postage-free mail. This is Missouri's Wolfner Library

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner>

Bookshare: An accessible online library for people with print disabilities.

Learning Ally: Audio books and learning tools.

Icing Smiles is a nonprofit organization that provides custom celebration cakes and other treats to families impacted by the critical illness of a child.

<https://www.icingsmiles.org/>

Hadley's Family Education (FE) Program offers a variety of courses for family members of individuals who are blind or severely visually impaired. Topics range from child development, independent living, braille reading and writing and adjustment to blindness issues.

Eligibility

You are eligible to enroll in the FE Program if you are a parent or grandparent of a blind or severely visually impaired child; or if you are a spouse, adult daughter or son, or adult sibling of a blind or severely visually impaired adult. As Hadley's courses are offered worldwide, it is important that you can read and understand courses written in English.

Why Enroll?

- Learn to read and write braille
- Foster the development of a child with a visual impairment
- Support your family member's adjustment to vision loss
- Develop advocacy skills

<https://www.hadley.edu>

Welcome to Disability Resource Association:

Disability Resource Association operates as a Center for Independent Living serving residents of Jefferson County, Metropolitan St. Louis and surrounding counties who meet the criteria of the Americans with Disabilities Act, regardless of age or type of disability.

<http://www.disabilityresourceassociation.org/>

Blindness Support Services Inc.
The Road to Independence

- Helpful Resources and Links for the Blind
- Children's Department

<http://www.blindnesssupport.com/childrensdepartment.html>