



Forgotten Children's Fund

Since 1941, the Forgotten Children's Fund has provided children in foster care homes and treatment centers with gifts, special items and services that they may not receive otherwise. First established by the American Legion Auxiliary, the fund has helped pay for bikes, art supplies, sports equipment, driver's education classes, summer camps and music lessons. While foster care payments cover children's basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and some incidentals, this fund goes beyond that to fulfill children's special interests.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services now manages the fund, which is supported entirely through donations and bequests. No tax dollars are used to reimburse from the Forgotten Children's Fund.

To be eligible for a one-time reimbursement from the Forgotten Children's Fund, a child needs to be placed in an out-of-home placement by a county social service agency, juvenile court or a voluntary placement for treatment.

To apply for these funds, foster parents or other children services providers may ask the child's county or tribal social worker to request reimbursement from the Forgotten Children's Fund. The request must contain the names and birth dates of foster children, amount requested (up to a one time maximum reimbursement of \$300 per child), and a detailed explanation of the purchase.

If the county or tribal worker agrees with the request they will forward it in writing to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

If the Minnesota Department of Human Services approves a request, county or tribal staff will receive an authorization and instructions for claiming reimbursement. The department will then send the funds directly to the county making the request.

The Forgotten Children's Fund does not reimburse for necessities that foster care payments cover, but rather for expenses that give foster parents and other providers' greater flexibility to provide for other material goods and activities for foster children. Often foster families and providers pay for part of the expenses and the fund helps pay for the rest. A child in out-of-home placement is only eligible for this funding one time.

Voluntary contributions to the fund are always welcome. To contribute, send a check and dated letter, specifying the amount of the contribution designated for the Forgotten Children's Fund, to Mary Doyle at Minnesota Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 0934, St. Paul, MN 55164-0934 or e-mail her at Mary.Doyle@state.mn.us.

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