



APPLICATION OVERVIEW AND ELIGIBILITY

The Choices that can Change Lives Fund provides small grants to help individuals and families pursue dreams and goals that they've been working on, when all other resources have been exhausted.

Eligible Applicants:

- Must be in service or attend a Community Living Toronto program
- Must be a current Member of Community Living Toronto
- Individuals employed by Community Living Toronto who meet the above criteria are eligible to apply

Eligible Applicants will need to show that:

- They have exhausted all other financial resources before applying to the Choices Fund. This includes government funding and funding from other sources like service agencies and non-profit organizations
- They've been working towards the goal that they need help with and that funding from the Choices Fund will help them achieve this goal

Terms of Funding:

- Individual or family requests will be funded to maximum of \$1,000
- Families requesting funding may only submit one application
- A group of four or more individuals who attend a Community Living program or receive service and have a common goal or dream may apply as a group
- Group requests will be funded to a maximum of \$500 per individual or \$5,000 total for larger groups
- Successful applicants must wait 2 years before re-applying to the Choices Fund
- Upon receipt of a Choices Fund grant, individuals and/or families will be required to enter into Funding Agreement with Community Living Toronto
- The Funding Agreement will provide the terms of the grant agreement and accountability requirements
- The Funding Agreement must be signed and understood before any grant funds are disbursed

Types of grants funded when there is a clear connection to a dream or goal:

- Classes or tutoring
- Music lessons
- Camp or recreational activities
- Concerts or sporting events
- Assistive technology - accessible hardware or software
- Extra daytime relief or evening respite support to help with community participation goals
- Travel assistance for family visits or vacations
- Gym memberships or sports team fees
- Sports equipment
- Support worker subsidy when linked to community participation goals
- Community outings or additional support worker help to support travel training goals

Occasionally requests for the following may be funded when there is a clear link to the applicant's goals and dreams and to help with community participation goals

- Assistive devices

Funding requests for computers or tablets

- iPads or other tablets are funded to a max of \$500
- Laptops or desktops are funded to a max of \$800

Requests not funded through the Choices that can Change Lives Fund include

- Requests for household goods and appliances
- Crisis needs
- Alternative or unproven therapies
- Veil beds
- Speech or occupational therapy

Important to note

- The purpose of the Choices Fund is to provide small grants to help individuals or families with dreams or goals they have been working on, when all other resources have been exhausted.
- Applications submitted with invoices that are paid in full and with start dates prior to funding approvals, will be returned and not moved forward in the funding review process
- Applications relying 100% on the Choices Fund without telling us what they've done so far in their plan to reach their goal, will be returned. This can include information such as personal savings, when possible, money that has been fundraised or granted through other sources, contributions like travel, meals, or accommodation covered others, or donations of equipment or services, luggage for a trip, a class fee that has been waived or a donated uniform for school, work, or a sports team.

Applicants and/or their staff supports are encouraged to contact us to discuss their funding requests prior to submitting their application.

Please ensure that all of the components of the application have been completed and attachments included. Incomplete applications will be returned.

- Copies of letters or applications to any other sources of funding for this specific goal or dream
- Clear outline of the steps taken or by the individual/family or group members or contributions made towards making this dream or goal happen prior to applying to the Choices Fund
- Completed budget worksheet
- Copies of quotes, estimates or registration forms that pertain to the request
- A minimum of two letters of recommendation. These letters can be from an employer, teacher, placement provider, support worker, agency staff, medical professional, social worker, or other agencies and must indicate why they would recommend that the applicant be approved for funding for the specific goal they are applying for
- Copy of current Membership Card
- Signed Statement of Understanding

Application Process

The Choices Fund accepts applications two times per year

Spring deadline - March 31 (applicants contacted at beginning of June) Fall deadline – September 30 (applicants contacted by end of November)

Submit completed applications to
Choices that can Change Lives Fund Grant Review Committee
20 Spadina Rd.
Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
E-mail: fundraising@cltoronto.ca

For further information contact
Sylvie Labrosse, Manager, Fundraising
E-mail: Sylvie.labrosse@cltoronto.ca | Phone: 647-588-9465