

## **Financial and Other Assistance for Equipment, Services and Medical Problems**

1. Disabled Children's Relief Fund--DCRF grant applications may be used for modest requests (\$25-\$200) for assistive devices, rehabilitative services, arts/humanities projects, etc., for children ages 0-18. Although there are no restrictions on the type or eligible disabilities, preference is given to applications that benefit children with physical challenges in need of prosthetic and other assistive devices (not computers). Contact DCRF at (516) 377-1605 or [www.dcrf.com](http://www.dcrf.com).

2. Durham Cerebral Palsy provides assistance to children ages birth through 18 years with cerebral palsy living in NC. Grants are typically made for equipment or other one-time expenditures not covered by other funding sources or personal means. Contact Marion Alston at (919) 474-8370 or e-mail at [marion@trianglecf.org](mailto:marion@trianglecf.org).

3. The Roberts-Miller Children's Fund--grants are made to children with disabilities throughout NC covering the following three areas:

- a. for the medically or mentally disadvantaged children where public or family resources are not available. Emphasis on special equipment is typical.
- b. for the disadvantaged children with orthodontic needs to correct significant disfigurement or threats to the overall health of the child--where public or family resources are not available.
- c. special grants to institutions/programs providing assistance to groups of children within the scope of the Fund's purpose and mission.

Applications must be obtained upon request to:

The Community Foundation of Gaston County  
P.O. Box 123  
Gastonia, NC 28053  
Phone: (704) 864-0927  
Fax: (704) 869-0222

4. Wheelchair Foundation--a nonprofit organization "leading an international effort to deliver a wheelchair to every man, woman, and child in the world who needs one." Contact [www.wheelchairfoundation.org](http://www.wheelchairfoundation.org).

5. Modest Needs distributes funds to persons with short-term financial needs and nowhere else to turn. Contact [www.modestneeds.org](http://www.modestneeds.org).

6. Easter Seals "Beach Ability"--enables people with disabilities and other mobility impairments to better access the beach and participate in a variety of coastal recreation activities with the aid of adaptive equipment. Contact them at (800)662-7119 or

[www.esnc.org](http://www.esnc.org).

7. Jim's Kids--helps with funding for devices that Medicaid will not pay for and families cannot financially afford. As of 8/02, Jim's Kids only provides wheelchairs in situations where Medicaid will not pay. Contact them at:

Jim's Kids  
2262-4 Race Track Rd  
Sophia, NC 27350-8900  
Phone: (336) 629-1973

8. United Cerebral Palsy of North Carolina--primary goal is to provide programs and services to individuals with physical disabilities and their families. The organization has funds set aside to assist persons residing in NC with specific financial needs (Special Assistance Program). Contact UCP at (919) 832-3787 or [www.ucpnc.org](http://www.ucpnc.org).

9. Children's Special Health Services--CSHS is a state agency that pays for specialized health care for children under 21 years of age who have certain chronic medical problems that could keep them from growing and developing normally. Children are eligible for CSHS if they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. CSHS income requirements
- b. have a chronic medical problem supported by the program
- c. are under 21 years of age
- d. live in North Carolina

To answer questions about the program, contact the Local Health Department or the following regional office:

Fayetteville and Raleigh Regions  
225 Green Street  
Wachovia Bank Building, Ste. 506  
Fayetteville, NC 28301-5095  
Phone: (919) 486-1191

10. Duke University "Devices for People with Disabilities" class--designs and builds products that meet the needs of local people with a wide range of disabilities. Local people who have proposals for consideration by future Duke biomedical engineering students can call Professor Bohs at 660-5155 or e-mail him at [lnb@duke.edu](mailto:lnb@duke.edu).

11. NC Sickle Cell Syndrome Program--for information on services or resources available through this program, contact Daisy Morris, Program Manager at (919) 715-3186.

12. NC Sickle Cell Foundation provides money for crisis situations, hospital bills, etc. for persons/families with Sickle Cell Anemia. Contact Marcia Wright at (910) 346-2510.

\*13. AMBUCS provides Am Trykes (adaptive tricycles for children with disabilities)--  
[www.ambucs.com](http://www.ambucs.com).

14. The Piedmont Carolinas Group LLC--Providing Advice, Services, and Financial Strategies for The Special Needs Community. Located in Durham, the mission is to help families plan for the financial future of their children or other dependents with special needs. Critical areas that must be addressed are:

1. Government benefit eligibility requirements for SSI and Medicaid (\$2,000 in assets can disqualify).

2. Ways in which a Special Needs Trusts can help provide lifetime care while still preserving government eligibility as well as appropriate funding vehicles.

3. Guardianship, Conservator and Client Self-Determination and Empowerment Issues and the all important Letter Of Intent.

Contact Sean Godwin (919) 403-9200, [sean@piedmontfinancial.com](mailto:sean@piedmontfinancial.com).