



## The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund

*When other resources end, we begin.*

"I am grateful in knowing that there is an organization that understands the overwhelming struggles of having a child with medical issues and that has ensured funding is available to assist those in need."  
-Recipient Family

"I just want to let you know that there are not words to tell you that can communicate the gratitude I feel in my heart for this support.  
GRACIAS, GRACIAS, GRACIAS. Thank you and all the people that have been part of this process."  
-Recipient Family

### Purpose of the Fund

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF) was established in 2000 to help families bear the excessive financial burdens associated with the care of children with special health care needs and disabilities. It is located at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is overseen by an independent Commission.

CICRF is a payor of last resort; it provides financial assistance for Massachusetts families with children experiencing a medical condition requiring services that are not covered by a private insurer, federal or state assistance, or any other financial source. It is designed to act as a safety net for families from all walks of life who have incurred excessive expenses related to a child's medical needs.

### Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for CICRF:

- The applicant must be a resident of Massachusetts
- The applicant must be age 21 or younger
- The applicant must be under the care of a licensed health care provider with staff privileges at a hospital licensed or accredited to provide pediatric or neonatal care
- The family's out-of-pocket medical and medically related expenses must be more than 10%

of the family's annual income up to \$100,000 (plus 15% of any portion of family income that is above \$100,000) in a given 12 month period.

### Eligible Expenses

CICRF is a reimbursement program; except in cases of medical emergency, the expense must have already been incurred in order to apply to the Fund and receive reimbursement.

CICRF may reimburse eligible families for a broad range of medical and medically related services and expenses that may not be covered under traditional health insurance policies, or for which the family does not have coverage, including but not limited to:

- Physician's expenses
- Specialized pediatric ambulatory care (testing, laboratory work, etc.)
- Mental health services
- Acute or specialized hospital care
- Rehabilitative therapies
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Medications
- Medically related home and vehicle modifications
- Travel and related expenses incurred while visiting a hospitalized child
- Funeral expenses
- CommonHealth, MassHealth, and CMSP premiums

To receive an application, or for more information:

[www.mass.gov/cicrf](http://www.mass.gov/cicrf)

Phone 1-800-882-1435

Fax 617-624-5927

TTY 617-627-5992

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A NEW SENSE OF HOPE WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST.