

2026

Family Support Services Program (FSSP)

Administered through the Southwestern Ohio Council of Governments (SWOCOG)
on behalf of Hamilton County DD Services

Program Description

The Family Supports Services Program is intended to support families in caring for their loved ones by providing financial support for certain disability-related expenses not covered by health insurance or Medicaid. Funding for this program is allocated yearly and is available to families on a first come, first served basis. Participation in the program is contingent upon current county-board eligibility.

Budget

Hamilton County families are allocated \$2,500 for each family member that qualifies for FSSP. Families can choose how to spend the \$2,500 budget allotted. Certain items are subject to their own spending limits, and Hamilton County DD Services may change coverages during the program year.

While a person can spend up to \$2,500, requests are fulfilled based on available funding at the time of the request. There is always a possibility that funds will be exhausted prior to the end of the program year. Funds are not set aside until the specific service or item has been approved for payment.

Requests

Requests must be approved by Family Support Services prior to purchase. A detailed description of coverages is attached.

- If the request requires a Verification of Need (VON) form, please submit the VON form along with the request. The need must be disability related. Most, but not all, VON forms must be completed by a doctor or therapist.
- For ongoing requests, the initial VON form will remain on file, and you will not need to file a new form each time you request additional supplies.
- Please reference the enclosed vendor list and ensure requests for covered items include itemized quotes with taxes and shipping.
- Reimbursement to the family is the most efficient option; if a check is issued to the vendor, in order to maintain eligibility in the program, please provide a receipt to verify funds were spent appropriately.
- The **last day to request funding/services or to submit receipts is Monday, November 2, 2026**, if FSSP funds have not been exhausted prior to this date. **Vouchers must be turned in by 12/31/26.**

If you have questions as to what paperwork to complete, please contact Michelle Hoying. Email for quickest turnaround. Additionally, step-by-step instructions can be found at www.swocog.org under Services, FSSP, Hamilton County Instructions.

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The mission of the Southwestern Ohio Council of Governments is to provide support and solutions to county boards of developmental disabilities through cost-effective shared services that deliver value, satisfaction, and maximization of resources.

2026 HAMILTON COUNTY FSSP COVERAGES

<p>The total of all the items or services below may not exceed the budget of \$2,500.</p>
<p>RESPITE</p> <p><i>A family chosen provider of respite at a location of the parent's choosing. Families can set the respite rate up to a max of \$200/day.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A provider application, W9 form, and family waiver must be on file for all respite providers prior to respite care occurrence.• Please be sure to notify the program if your provider's address changes.
<p>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES</p> <p><i>Fees for camps, sports, lessons, and clubs, regardless of whether the activity is specialized or inclusive. This could include, but is not limited to, summer camps, sports teams, swim lessons, scouting programs, art and music classes, sign language classes, and after school activities.</i></p>
<p>THERAPY/COUNSELING</p> <p><i>Payment for specialty therapies such as speech, occupational, physical therapy, hippo/equine, applied behavioral analysis as well as individual or family mental health counseling.</i></p>
<p>ADAPTIVE ITEMS</p> <p><i>Payment for adaptive equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, lifts, etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires verification of need from a therapist or developmental specialist.
<p>HOME MODIFICATIONS</p> <p><i>Examples include wheelchair ramps, bathroom modifications, etc. Does not include home maintenance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires a verification of need from a therapist or developmental specialist.• All requests must be approved <i>before</i> work begins.• The request must include a price quote that includes the name of the provider, address, a description of the service, and the price.• If the home is rented, home modifications can be made if the landlord provides a letter acknowledging permission for the specific home mod being requested, as well as stating that they understand HCDDS will not be responsible for removing the modification if the tenant moves.
<p>INCONTINENCE SUPPLIES</p> <p><i>Examples include diapers, wipes, pullups, and protective bed covers.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires a verification of need from a doctor or therapist.• FSSP will fund diapers/incontinent supplies if the individual is 4 or older.• We can issue vouchers for Kroger as an option.
<p>NUTRITIONAL/MEAL REPLACEMENT SHAKES</p> <p><i>Examples include: Ensure, Pediasure, Thick-it, etc. We can issue Kroger vouchers as an option for special dietary items.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires verification of need from a doctor or therapist.

The categories below have spending limits.

Spending in these categories counts towards the total budget of \$2,500.

TECHNOLOGY ITEMS	Limit: \$500 annually
<i>Examples include wearable GPS devices, sensors, communication devices, apps, cameras, iPads, computers, tablets, and smart home technology, etc.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires verification of need from DD professional.• A computer, laptop, or iPad can be funded once every three years for individuals 12 and older. They are not funded for kids under 12.• For iPads being purchased for the purpose of a speech device in connection with an SLP's guidance, there is no age requirement. There is no age requirement for Learning tablets.	
THERAPEUTIC ITEMS	
<i>Developmental tools such as items aimed at increasing fine/gross motor skills, speech, or communication.</i>	Limit: \$500 annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires verification of need from therapist or developmental specialist.	
SENSORY ITEMS	
<i>Weighted pressure vests and blankets, body sock, etc.</i>	Limit: \$500 annually*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires verification of need from a therapist or developmental specialist.• Swings, trampolines, sand and water tables and pools can qualify only if the need is justified as a sensory need.• Limited to \$500/year *per family.	
DEVELOPMENTAL ITEMS	
<i>Developmental equipment, such as beds, highchairs, strollers, car seats, storage items, safety items, etc.</i>	Limit: \$500 annually
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires verification of need from a therapist or DD professional.	
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	
<i>Items that could be considered for payment under this category include limited emergency assistance in times of crisis including rent, utilities, extermination, or vehicle repairs.</i>	Limit: \$200 every other year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can only assist with one emergency once every other year up to the maximum amount of \$200. This means if you use rent, utilities or a vehicle repair in 2025 then you wouldn't be eligible for any other emergency assistance until 2027.	

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