



KIDS ON THE GO! PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the Kids on the Go! Program?

The **Kids on the Go!** Program exists in order to help purchase mobility equipment (wheelchairs, van lifts, house ramps, adaptive car seats & strollers, specially-equipped bicycles & tricycles, stairlifts and other items) and assistive technology devices and communication systems necessary to increase a child's access to and participation in the community.

2. Who does the program serve?

The **Kids on the Go!** Program serves children who are 21 years of age and under and whose need for enabling equipment is not met by any other source, including family, school, insurance and service program resources. The **child must** live within the following counties that we serve: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland.

3. How often may a child apply for a grant?

The **Kids on the Go!** Program will make a grant to a child no more than once every three years until the child is 21 years of age. Preference will be given to those children who have not received previous grants. There is no limit to how many applications can be filed when previous requests could not be funded. **Only one piece of equipment will be funded per application.**

4. Our family has more than one child with a disability. Can we seek financial assistance for all of our children with disabilities at one time?

Yes. However, Variety the Children's Charity cannot guarantee that all of the children will be approved for funding. Separate applications will need to be completed and submitted with all forms and information specific to each individual child.

5. How much money can be spent on any individual child?

The **Kids on the Go!** Program will spend up to \$5,000 on any individual grant. However, the family is free to combine that funding with dollars of their own or dollars from other sources. Variety the Children's Charity will make payments directly to the vendor of the equipment or material that is provided. Variety does not reimburse families for any equipment or modifications they may have paid for.

6. Are there income restrictions?

Yes. It is the belief of Variety the Children's Charity that the **Kids on the Go!** Program should help those children who are unable to obtain help from any other source. In order that we might accomplish this, we ask that each application be submitted with documentation of attempts made to obtain funding from other sources. Additionally, we ask that the family provide us with any other information that might clarify their child's need for enabling equipment and the family's inability to obtain these items.

We understand that a family can incur tremendous medical (and other) expenses in support of a child with disabilities. We will take this fact into account when making our determinations. However, in some cases, Variety the Children's Charity may offer to pay for a percentage of a piece of equipment, based on the family's income. Each application must include a declaration of the family's income.

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7. What types of equipment will be funded?

Wheelchairs (electric and manual), stair glides, ramps (for house or vans), van lifts (where a ramp will not be sufficient), adaptive car seats (and stroller bases), walkers, standers, adaptive bicycles and tricycles, and assistive technology devices and communication systems. House modifications (i.e. ramps, stair glides) will be done **only** in cases where the house is owner occupied. Requests for each piece of equipment must be accompanied by a Letter of Medical Necessity from a doctor or physical therapist documenting the need for the item and stating the specifications necessary. **To expedite the review process, please address all items in the Addendum for appropriate equipment being requested.**

8. Will Variety fund equipment ordered through a catalog?

No. Variety requires that a child trial the equipment being requested. Most equipment can be ordered through a vendor.

9. Does Variety adhere to ADA guidelines?

Yes. Although ADA guidelines are meant for public use, Variety chooses to adhere to these guidelines to insure the safety of children with disabilities and their caregivers. If for any reason it is determined that a house ramp cannot be built to ADA guidelines, other options will be identified for the family (i.e., elevator lift, stair lift, scalamobil, etc.).

When applying for funding for a van or adaptations to a van, etc., please note that tie-downs and an occupant restraint system are required by Variety. If the recipient declines the installation of this equipment, Variety will rescind funding.

Please note: A building permit **MUST** be obtained prior to beginning any outside construction of ramps, etc. The contractor is responsible for acquiring the permit. A copy of the permit **must** be sent or faxed to Variety prior to the start of the project.

10. I am a foster parent. Will Variety provide funding for my foster child who has a disability?

Variety will provide funding for equipment such as adaptive bikes, tricycles, wheelchairs, etc. Variety will not provide funding for house ramps, elevator lifts or home modifications of the like.

11. I do not own my own house. Does Variety provide funding for ramps in rental situations?

Yes. Variety will provide funding for ramps in rental situations as long as a letter of approval from the landlord is included. The letter must be on letterhead and have a phone number so that Variety can contact the landlord. Variety will not provide funding for any adaptations requested for an apartment building.

12. My child with a disability resides with me within your serving area. However, the child's other parent lives outside of the ten county serving area. Our child needs easier access to that house. Will Variety provide funding for a ramp there?

No. Variety will only fund equipment that will be installed or used in the ten counties we serve (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland).

13. Once our request for funding has been approved, is there a time limit as to how quickly we must use the funding?

Yes. Upon approval, a time span of six months is allotted for completion of the project. If unforeseen circumstances arise with either the contractor or your family's situation, Variety is to be notified immediately to help to resolve the issue or to consider an extension for the funding.