

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Capacity-Building Grants for Family Support Networks (2026-27)**

#### **When will we hear if our grant application was successful?**

Our aim is to notify successful applicants by mid-May 2026. If we have questions or require clarification about your application before making a final decision, notification may be delayed.

#### **Our Family Support Network or organization does not have a bank account! Does that mean we can't apply?**

No. You must have (or be prepared to set up) a bank account managed by the FSN or organization with two unrelated signing officers (co-signatories) and the ability to receive funds by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). **If the bank account is managed and set up by an FSN**, it must be used for the sole purpose of FSN banking, and the account may be in the name of the Family Support Network or the name of the two unrelated co-signatories.

#### **Does our Family Support Network need to have an agreement with an agency to flow our grant funds to us?**

No, Family Support Networks do not need an agreement with an agency. However, please see the Financial Requirements that must be in place to receive the grant funds. The applicant named on the application form should be the FSN, organization or agency that has the bank account.

#### **Several members of our family are supporting a family member with a developmental disability. Can we apply for a grant to support our family?**

No. These grants are for FSNs that bring together families and unpaid caregivers from multiple families in the community. Grant activities must benefit the FSN as a whole – not one individual or family.

#### **We haven't formalized as a Family Support Network. Can we apply?**

Yes! We encourage groups that are just starting up to apply for the New & Emerging funding stream. FSNs often begin as informal networks of people from different families with similar experiences that have found peer connection to be helpful. The grant can be used to set up and formalize a Family Support Network and to pay for operating equipment, zoom videoconferencing to facilitate connection, or anything you need to get your FSN up and running that falls within the grant guidelines.

#### **We are not sure which funding stream to apply for:**

If you have reviewed the Grant Guidelines and Application and are uncertain about which funding stream to apply for, reach out to [grants@ontariocaregiver.ca](mailto:grants@ontariocaregiver.ca) and we'll be happy to help you decide.

#### **How much funding will be awarded within each funding stream?**

We have not allocated a set amount to each funding stream. Funding decisions will be made based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the guidelines.

**How many grants will be awarded?**

Last year 43 grants were awarded. The number to be awarded this year will not be confirmed once the application and selection process is completed. OCO relies on funding from the Government of Ontario for this program. Plans for distribution of grant money is subject to change or cancellation if there are changes to government funding for the program.

**What if we don't have social media?**

That's ok, but we encourage you to create social media pages that help with member communication and are manageable to maintain.

**What can we use the grant for?**

Grants can be used for a wide range of activities and expenses, if they meet the grant guidelines. Here are a few examples of what successful recipients did last year. Be creative!

- Technology support to help your group connect – phone, website, zoom account, etc.
- Recruitment of new members
- Resources to help families understand and navigate local supports.
- Speakers or facilitators for training workshops on topics of interest to members (e.g.: wellness, strategies for living well, arts-based mindfulness sessions)
- Resource libraries
- Local events and activities to support peer connection.

**If the activities detailed in our application extend past March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027, can we still apply?**

All activities listed in the application must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

**We are receiving a grant! When will we receive our money?**

The goal is for successful applicants to receive funds soon after OCO has received the signed Acceptance Form and full financial information (anticipated funds release in early June).

**Can a Family Support Network apply if it also supports children?**

Yes, however, FSN Grants are intended to support FSNs whose members are primarily families supporting an **adult (18+)** living with a developmental disability.

**Our membership is mainly an email list. Do I need to include all their names and/or emails?**

No, simply include the names of any leadership or executive positions (president, treasurer, etc.) and indicate on the application that you primarily communicate via email and approximately how many people are on that list.

**Who do I contact if I have questions or require assistance with the application?**

You can email [grants@ontariocaregiver.ca](mailto:grants@ontariocaregiver.ca)