Sadie McCann Fund – FAQs

Who can apply? Any family whose child has been diagnosed with Aicardi Syndrome is eligible to apply. Applicant(s) must demonstrate financial need (see below) and the grant funds must be used for the direct benefit of the affected child. Families whose requests are awarded will be ineligible to reapply for two years.

What are the income requirements? The Sadie McCann Fund uses eligibility criteria of 300% of the most recent Annual Federal Poverty Guidelines. (For example, a family with a household size of 4 is eligible if their 2026 annual income is less than $99,000.) See specific financial eligibility guidelines on our website.

What types of things can I apply for? Examples of how families could use these grants include, but are not limited to: purchase of specialized equipment (including wheelchair accessible vehicles), home accessibility modifications, therapeutic services, respite, travel to/from the Aicardi Syndrome Family Conference, etc. If you are not sure about the item or service for which you'd like to apply, please email info@sadiemccannfund.org.

What if the grant amount won't cover the entire cost of the item or service? When the maximum grant award is unable to completely cover the costs of the requested item or service, it may be put toward the family's out-of-pocket costs after insurance has paid its share or combined with individual fundraising or other grants to meet the proposed need. Please specify in the grant application how you plan to raise the additional funds. We request that you do not apply for a grant until you have at least 75% of the funds raised towards the total cost of the purchase. In general, we will provide the grant as the final funds needed for a purchase.

What information do you need in the application? We request general information about the child, family, and the item/service that is requested. We encourage applicants to be as specific as possible in the grant application, and when possible, include prices, quotes, or printouts of the item or service requested. If this information is not included in the application, we may reach out with additional questions or ask you to wait until you have these specifics.

Will I have to pay taxes on the grant award? If the check is made payable to an individual, that individual will be responsible for any associated tax liabilities. For this reason, we typically make the check payable directly to the vendor providing the service or item.

How are applications reviewed? All applications are screened for eligibility and reviewed by The Sadie McCann Fund board of directors. A final determination is based on the information provided as well as availability of funds. It is our policy to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, or disability.

What if I miss the deadline? We typically have three deadlines throughout the year. If you miss one deadline, you are welcome to apply for the next. In rare cases, we can expedite a grant application. If you need an expedited review, please email info@sadiemccannfund.org.

How often can I apply? Regardless of your application tier, families can only apply once every two years. This waiting period helps us serve as many families as possible with our limited funds.

How soon will I receive a response? Grant applications are typically reviewed within 4 weeks after the grant deadline date, and applicants are notified via email shortly thereafter.