

Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT) is Accepting Applications for the 2013 Charitable Fund Award

The Commonwealth Community Trust (CCT) established the CCT Charitable Fund Award to award funds for equipment, medication, and/ or services to financially needy individuals with disabilities.

The maximum amount of the award per individual in 2013 is \$1,000.

The application must be completed and signed by a representative from a nonprofit organization or public agency that serves people with disabilities. A maximum of 10 applications will be accepted from an organization or agency. Please identify a representative who will collect all applications and submit them together as a group.

Timeline: The deadline for applications to be received at the CCT office is March 29, 2013. The organization representative will be notified in May of the award decision. For funded applications, an award check will be made payable to the vendor noted on the application. Award checks will need to be cashed by August 2013.

Evaluation criteria: A committee of CCT staff and Board Members will review applications based on how the request will impact the recipient's quality of life. Preference will also be given to those requests that:

- demonstrate a lasting impact (versus a short-term benefit).
- are for a one-time expense (versus an ongoing expense) and
- cover the entire cost of the equipment, medication, or service requested.

Before submitting an application, please check the following requirements:

- ✓ The recipient has a disability that meets the SSA definition of disabled*.
- ✓ The recipient meets Federal poverty guidelines and/or receives SSI and/or Medicaid benefits**.
- ✓ The application was completed and signed by a representative from a nonprofit organization or public agency that serves people with disabilities.
- ✓ The funds being requested are for the purchase of either equipment, medication, or services to benefit the recipient.
- ✓ This program is not intended to pay off a recipient's debts, to fund services that are normally provided at no cost to the recipient, or to provide a general source of income to the recipient.
- ✓ If the total cost exceeds the amount being requested, the confirmed source of additional funds needs to be described.

* Disability for adults is defined as the inability to engage in "substantial gainful activity." There must be a physical or mental impairment that can be expected to last at least 12 months.

**Federal Poverty Guideline for one person for 2012/13 is \$11,170 and for families based on 200%.

ABOUT CCT

CCT is a nonprofit organization that administers pooled Special Needs Trusts for people with disabilities that will not jeopardize government benefits such as Medicaid and SSI.

CCT administers two types of trusts:

- **The third party Special Needs Trust is for family members who want to ensure the quality of life for a loved one with a disability by leaving funds in a trust.**
- **The self-funded Pooled Disability Trust is for individuals who receive a personal injury award, inheritance or social security back payment.**

Additional information about CCT, including FAQs and trust documents, is available at: www.commonwealthcommunitytrust.org.

Contact Karen Currie at kcurrie@commonwealthcommunitytrust.org with questions or for assistance with the application.