  

“I am grateful in knowing that there is an organization that understands the overwhelming struggles of having a child with medical issues and that has ensured funding is available to assist those in need.”

-Recipient Family

**Purpose of the Fund**

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF) provides financial assistance to qualified families caring for children and youth with large medical related expenses not covered by health insurance, public benefits, or any other source. CICRF acts as a safety net for families from all walks of life who have incurred excessive expenses related to a child’s medical needs.

Located at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, CICRF is overseen by an independent Commission. Families must complete an application and submit documentation of income and expenses. Eligibility is based on the child’s medical expenses compared to annual family income.

“I just want to let you know that there are not words to tell you that can communicate the gratitude I feel in my heart for this support. GRACIAS, GRACIAS, GRACIAS. Thank you and all the people that have been part of this process.”

-Recipient Family

**Eligibility Criteria**

In order to be eligible for CICRF, the applicant must:

* live in Massachusetts
* be age 21 or younger
* be under the care of a licensed health care provider with staff privileges at a hospital licensed or accredited to provide pediatric or neonatal care
* meet financial thresholds.

The family’s medically related expenses must be over 10% of annual income up to $100,000

**Eligible Expenses**

CICRF provides reimbursement for actual expenses incurred and not for anticipated future expenses.

CICRF considers expenses going back 24 months from the date a family’s application is received. Eligible expenses reimbursed may include but are not limited to:

* stipend related to hospital appointments and admissions
* medically related home and vehicle modifications, with limitations
* medical equipment and supplies
* medications
* CommonHealth premiums
* behavioral health services
* rehabilitative therapies
* uncovered hospital/physician expenses
* funeral expenses, with limitations



(plus 15% of any portion of family income that is above $100,000) in a given 12 month period. Per Fund policy, some expenses like accessible vans and bathrooms are limited in the amounts counted toward eligibility.

**Visit** [**www.mass.gov/cicrf**](http://www.mass.gov/cicrf)

**Download an application, forms & other resources in English & Spanish**

**Call 1-800-882-1435**

**Get more information about CICRF**

**Spanish, Portuguese & Haitian-Creole**

**speakers available**