

Guidelines for the OPG Fund

October 2003

Revised April 2010, April 2022, & January 2023

The OPG Fund is a relatively small amount of general fund money (\$23,637) allocated annually and distributed on a first come, first serve basis. The purpose of the OPG Fund is to pay for special costs relating to personal health and safety or maintaining a residence for individuals on public guardianship. The funds should be distributed in a way that does not create a special entitlement or advantage for individuals who are on public guardianship, but instead balances the lack of natural or family support available. The fund is there to assist us to carry out our responsibilities as public guardians.

Use of the funds should be related to the purpose of the guardianship and only after other sources have been sought, for example, person's own money in bank account, Rep Payee account, ABLE account, or Trust; One Time Funding (DDSD), Money Follows the Person (ASD), etc.

Uses of the Fund – Available to anyone on the OPG Caseload

Death related expense, up to \$500.00. May include lot, marker, service, casket or cost of funeral. Ordinarily this money will supplement the funds available from Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) and/or Social Security.

Holiday and Special Occasion Gifts, for individuals who do not receive gifts from anyone else in their life. The gift must be something that the individual needs related to their health and safety such as clothing or bedding. The maximum allowed is \$25.

Loan or advance to pay room, board, or other expenses while an SSI application is pending, or to pay for these items for an individual who is not getting SSI for some reason and who lacks resources to pay for necessities.

Moving, transportation, and temporary storage costs for individuals who need to change residences during an emergency when more cost-effective options are not available.

Payment for **clothing and other losses** when the loss occurred is due to an emergency move, fire, or other major problem. (But not to be paid for expenses that will be paid for by insurance or other community contributions.)

Dental and eyeglass costs not covered by other sources.

Other critical medical or evaluation costs not covered by Medicaid, which cannot be written off by the provider, and for which there is not another funding source.

Assistive devices that aid in independence, safety, and communication/social connections. Payment for technology such as iPads and other devices which can be used

to support a person to maintain video contact with their guardian, service providers, etc. The maximum allowed is \$500.00.

Exercise equipment, such as bicycles, weights, treadmills, etc., if the person is unable to access gym. The maximum allowed is \$500.00.

Annual vacation up to \$300/year if lacking personal funds.

Expenses for a **trip of special importance** (e.g. to a funeral of a family member)

Available to individuals living in or moving to their own apt./house/mobile home.

Rent supplement while waiting for Section 8. Also deposits on rent, phone, utilities, if the person can't afford them and there is no other source of funding.

Payment of **back bills** required to get necessary utilities turned on (cable and cell phone are not considered necessary utilities.) Not intended to be used repeatedly for the same person.

Other **basic living expenses**, such as furniture, for a person living independently when the person does not have sufficient resources.

The GS Fund Cannot Be Used For:

Requests not related to health, safety, basic well-being or guardianship responsibilities

Accessibility needs if the person receives DS services (use one-time funds or special services fund)

Approval of Requests & Documentation Needed

Requests for OPG funding should be discussed with the OPG Regional Supervisor first and submitted to the Administrative Services Coordinator/Director of OPG for final approval. The written request must include an invoice with the name of the vendor or person who is buying the item, or providing the service, their Social Security # and/or other federal (business) ID number.

Payments cannot be made directly to the individual who receives public guardianship.