**OREF FAQ**

Opportunity Resources Empowerment Fund

*Who can apply for an OREF grant?* Individuals who have a disability and have services through ORI. They may be assisted by family members, Case Managers, guardians or care providers. The fund is intended to meet special needs where no other resources exist.

*What can the grant be used for?* Special needs may arise for many reasons: equipment needs, assistive technology, work-related tools or clothing, unusual transportation costs, housing issues, recreational needs, and education, to name just a few.

*How much can I receive?* Depending on the available monies in the OREF account, grants may be made on a sliding scale basis. That is, after resources from the individual, family, services provider and others are applied toward the need, the OREF may provide grant monies to help make up any additional needed. Usually the amount is $500 or less.

*Do I have to pay it back?* No. This is a grant, not a loan. However, you may wish to contribute to the OREF to help others down the road who may need assistance. Donations of any amount to the fund is strongly encouraged.

*How do I apply for an OREF grant?* Simply fill out a form online or printed copy with proper signatures and dates. Forms are available at the ORI main office, 2821 S Russell Street, Missoula, MT, 59801 or at [www.orimt.org](http://www.orimt.org).

*How often can I apply for an OREF grant?* As often as true special needs arises. However, only one grant will be awarded to an individual in a given fiscal year.

*Do I have to be a client of ORI to apply for the grant?* Yes

*When do I have to apply and when will I find out if I am approved?* The OREF is open application—you can apply anytime. The Grants Committee meets frequently. You should allow 30 days to receive a decision. Funds are granted immediately after a decision is made.