

Spina Bifida Association of Northeastern New York Technology & Related Supports Scholarship  
Provided in partnership with the New York State Developmental Disability Planning Council and The  
William Gundry Broughton Private Charitable Foundation



The SBANENY Technology & Related Supports Scholarship provides financial assistance to individuals and families living with Spina Bifida to provide or improve access to virtual opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The scholarship is intended to be used towards the cost of technology and related supports. The exact amount to be disbursed will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. The number of scholarship applicants will be a factor in this decision.

**COVID-19:**

- Scholarship funds are intended to support virtual access during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, scholarships will be available upon release of these guidelines (2/1/2021) and reimbursement opportunities will be available for purchases made after March 16, 2020.

**Virtual Opportunities:**

- Telehealth (medical appointments and therapies), remote work, remote education, mental health counseling, programming (SBANENY's and others), and other identified opportunities that will benefit the quality of life of the applicant.

**Technology & Related Supports:**

- Laptop, cellphone, tablet, accessories including but not limited to: keyboards, mouse, headset, camera, mic, etc., technology software, workstation and related supplies, training, modifications, and other identified technologies and supports.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

1. Applicants must have Spina Bifida or be a parent/representative of someone living with Spina Bifida.
2. Recipients must reside in New York State.
3. Recipients can be of all ages.
4. Applicants who are awarded scholarships must be willing and able to complete up to 2 follow-up surveys inquiring about the use and impact of the technology and/or related supports.
5. Members of the scholarship committee are ineligible to apply and will not participate in committee meetings where there is a potential Conflict of Interest.

**Application Requirements:**

1. No financial statement shall be required.
2. Applicants must provide a written justification/explanation regarding the benefits of the technologies and/or supports to the recipient in accessing virtual opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - a. If you also have a financial need, please include it here in the justification.
3. Proof of purchase will be required for reimbursement.
4. Applicants may apply for more than one piece of technology and/or related supports. Applicants should submit **one** application even if applying for funding or reimbursement of **multiple items**.

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**Selection Process:**

1. Eligible applicants must apply for this award.
2. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through 9/1/2021 or until the total funds have been committed.
3. The period in which purchases have been or can be made is March 16, 2020 - December 31, 2021.
4. An application will consist of:
  - a. A completed application form.
  - b. **Future purchases:** A short essay (two-three paragraphs) detailing why the individual and/or family is in need of technology and/or related supports, how the funding will be used, why the technology will improve access to virtual opportunities and how the individual anticipates this will benefit their overall quality of life.
  - c. **Reimbursement funding:** A short essay (two-three paragraphs) detailing why the individual and/or family was in need of technology and/or related supports, how the technology has improved access to virtual opportunities and how this has benefitted the individual's overall quality of life.
  - d. A virtual interview with one or more members of the Scholarship Committee; this interview can be completed via Zoom (preferable) or by phone.
  - e. Additional information may be requested by the Scholarship Committee as needed.

**Selection Criteria:**

1. Meets all eligibility requirements.
2. Reasonable justification regarding the benefits of the technologies and/or supports to the recipient in accessing virtual opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Applicants who demonstrate a need for financial assistance to secure technology and/or related supports will be prioritized but all eligible individuals are encouraged to apply.

**Award:**

1. Selection of the recipient(s) shall be made by a majority vote of the Scholarship Committee. Applicants will be notified within 3 months from the date of application.
2. The amount awarded will be at the discretion of the scholarship committee. A maximum amount of \$250.00 will be awarded per qualifying individual.
3. Actual payment shall be made by check payable to the recipient(s) upon receipt of proof of purchase.