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ACHIEVA Family Trust  
Charitable Residual Account Handbook

711 Bingham Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

(412) 995-5000

[www.achievafamilytrust.org](http://www.achievafamilytrust.org)

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## I. MISSION OF ACHIEVA

### **Statement of Mission:**

*ACHIEVA supports and empowers individuals with disabilities and their families.*

### **Statement of Vision:**

*ACHIEVA envisions a community where disability is a distinction that makes no difference.*

*ACHIEVA serves more than 10,000 individuals with disabilities and their families annually and is the only agency of its type in Southwestern Pennsylvania that provides lifelong supports.*

*From early intervention therapies, residential support, vocational training, trust services, advocacy to in-home support, ACHIEVA provides a full spectrum of services for people of all ages and abilities and their families.*

*ACHIEVA is the nonprofit parent organization and Southwestern Pennsylvania's largest provider of comprehensive services and supports for people with disabilities and their families.*

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## II. INTRODUCTION TO ACHIEVA FAMILY TRUST

Individuals with disabilities and their families face significant challenges in planning for their financial stability. ACHIEVA Family Trust, a member of the ACHIEVA Family of Organizations, provides information to individuals and serves as trustee of several kinds of trusts benefiting individuals with disabilities. Created in 1998 to address parents' concerns about their children's futures, ACHIEVA Family Trust now has over 2,000 accounts and continues to grow.

ACHIEVA Family Trust offers many services including:

- Case management and social work expertise to help preserve eligibility for essential government benefits and services.
- Future planning services for individuals with disabilities and their families including planning tools, supports that augment government funded services and asset management.
- Management and distribution of funds to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, recognizing their individual preferences and capabilities.
- A free personal planning guide to help families collect and update information about their loved ones.
  - [www.achieva.info/future-planning-project](http://www.achieva.info/future-planning-project)

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**Three types of trusts:**

1. Third Party/Common Law Trusts may be established by family and friends of an individual with disabilities, but not the individual him/herself. A common law trust helps families and friends of an individual with a disability preserve eligibility for essential, lifelong, supports and services such as Medical Assistance, Waiver services and Supplemental Security Income.
2. Pooled Trusts can be created by an individual with a disability, his or her parents or grandparents, a legal guardian or the Court. Assets in these accounts are “pooled” together with other pooled trusts that ACHIEVA Family Trust manages for investment purposes, but the individual has their own separate account. If an individual with a disability passes away with a balance in his or her pooled trust account, remaining funds become part of a charitable account to benefit individuals with disabilities who are in need.
3. Payback Trusts can be created by a parent, grandparent or guardian of an individual with a disability or by a Court. However, once the payback trust has been established, an individual with a disability can then add his or her assets to the trust. If an individual with a disability passes away with money still left in his or her payback trust, the remaining funds are used to “pay back” the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and any other state in which the beneficiary had resided, for the amount of Medical Assistance paid on behalf of the beneficiary. Any remaining money is then distributed per the instructions outlined in the trust agreement.

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### III. RESIDUAL ACCOUNT

ACHIEVA Family Trust serves as corporate trustee for several kinds of trusts benefiting individuals with disabilities. These trusts, described in more detail on page 5, allow beneficiaries to preserve eligibility for essential government services while enhancing their quality of life. One type of trust is a Medicaid permitted Pooled Trust. When individuals with disabilities join the Pooled Trust with ACHIEVA Family Trust, they know any funds that might be left when they pass away will be transferred into the Residual Account to benefit individuals with disabilities. ACHIEVA Family Trust distributes money from the Residual Account to beneficiaries in order to provide supplemental supports and services for people with disabilities to enhance their quality of life. Distributions are based upon demonstrated financial need.

ACHIEVA Family Trust recognizes that the Residual Account cannot address the needs of all individuals with disabilities. Our goal is to assist those with lifelong intellectual, physical, and behavioral disabilities who have no other resources to obtain the needed product or service.

Funds in the Residual Account are to be used as a *last resort*, when there is no other funding available for the service or support. If other funding sources may be able to fund the request, the applicant is required to provide, in writing, documentation that other potential funding sources, including all federal or state funding, have been explored and were either denied or only partially approved.

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#### IV. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- ✓ Funds in the Residual Account should NOT be used for any purpose that would threaten an applicant's eligibility for public funds that provide primary supports and services.
- ✓ An applicant is eligible to receive an award once every 2 years. Camp and other forms of recreation requests are the only type that can be applied for on an annual basis.
- ✓ The funds from Residual Account may not be used for the purchase of a vehicle. However, the funds may be used for vehicle modifications in order to ensure accessibility.
- ✓ All professional or organizational letters must be on corporate letterhead and signed by the individual who wrote the letter.
- ✓ The Residual Account does not reimburse for items or services that have already been purchased.
- ✓ Information on family contributions or other sources of funding is helpful and must be provided.

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## V. PROCEDURES

When a Residual Application is received by the Residual Account Coordinator or Residual Account Assistant, it is immediately reviewed using a checklist for completeness. If the application information is complete, the application is processed for review by the Residual Team. There may be situations where the Review Team will request additional information regarding an application. Upon timely receipt of the additional information, the application may be submitted for review.

### **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED AND WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**

At staff discretion additional information necessary to complete an application may be obtained from outside sources relevant to the situation.

Applications will be reviewed on a quarterly calendar year basis. In order to be considered, completed applications must be submitted to ACHIEVA Family Trust by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Applications submitted after these deadlines will be held for review until the following quarter.

*All applications must be submitted in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for review prior to an event taking place or an item being purchased. Applicants are discouraged from submitting applications on or immediately prior to the deadline due to the high volume of requests received at that time.*



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The Residual Committee will meet later in the months of January, April, July, and October. The applicant and person who completed the application will be notified of a determination no later than the 15th of the following month.

If the Residual Committee denies an application, the applicant and the person who completed the application are informed in writing. A copy of the written denial is kept with the original application at the ACHIEVA Family Trust.

If the Residual Committee approves the application and the amount requested is below \$10,000, the Residual Account Coordinator or Residual Account Assistant will notify the applicant and the person who completed the application before processing for payment and/or purchase of the items.

Because funds from the Residual Account can only be used for trust beneficiaries, applicants who are not already beneficiaries of the AFT Pooled Trust will need to become beneficiaries of the Pooled Trust. Staff will provide a copy of the materials related to the AFT Pooled Trust to the applicant and the person who completed the application. A completed Joinder Agreement, signed by an appropriate party, must be returned to the Residual Account Staff before any payments will be processed and/or items purchased. A copy of the joinder agreement will be attached on page 16.

In some instances, a conflict of interest may be present when the applicant is receiving or has received services from ACHIEVA, or the applicant has an employment or other

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relationship with ACHIEVA. Receipt of prior Residual Grants does not constitute a “relationship with ACHIEVA” that must be disclosed.

If it is determined that there is a conflict of interest or the amount requested exceeds \$10,000 and the Residual Team recommends approval of the application, it is presented to the Residual Committee of the ACHIEVA Family Trust Board for review and final decision. The Residual Committee is provided with an Executive Summary. Copies of the application and any additional information are available for review. There is no process for appeal.

ACHIEVA Family Trust requires that the individual completing the Residual application sign their name on page six to indicate that all information is true and correct. The individual completing the Residual application is also asked to disclose any present or past relationship to the proposed vendor or to ACHIEVA. Upon disclosure of any relationship that could be viewed as a conflict of interest, ACHIEVA Family Trust reserves the right to determine the appropriate course of action.

Receipts for items purchased or services provided from the Residual Account should be submitted to the Residual Coordinator within a 90 day period. Failure to submit receipts in a timely manner may result in subsequent applications being denied.

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The funds from the Residual Account may not be used for the purchase of a vehicle. However, the funds may be used for vehicle modifications in order to ensure accessibility.

In certain compelling situations the Residual Team may approve over and above the requested amount.

**EMERGENCY REQUESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS!**

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## VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Documents will vary depending on type of funding being requested. There are five (5) categories of funding that require specific documents. ACHIEVA Family Trust reserves the right to add additional categories or documentation requirements as necessary.

The letter of support required for all applicants should include detailed description of the situation. This is opportunity to describe the compelling need to the Reviewers:

- o How will the product or service improve the quality of life for the applicant?
  - o Who is recommending the product or services for the applicant?
  - o What other types of funding have been explored and is any other funding available to pay for the product or service?
  - o What is the availability of the family/household to assist with payments?
  - o If the request is for a one time grant for an ongoing expense, please describe a long term plan for the applicant after they receive this funding.
1. Camp/Recreation
- A. Brochure/other published description of the camp, such as website information, with prices included
  - B. Invoice showing dates of camp/breakdown of cost and/or registration form
  - C. A support letter from a professional not affiliated with the vendor
    - a. Signed
    - b. On letterhead
  - D. Proof of denial of payment from other funding sources such as Extended School Year(ESY), if applicable

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2. Medical

- A. Two quotes from different vendors (for items over \$500)
- B. A support letter (signed and on letterhead) from a professional ( ie. Doctor or Physician)

3. Product or Supplies

- A. Two quotes from different vendors (for items over \$500)
- B. A support letter (signed and on letterhead) from a professional
- C. Requests for iPads do not require bids
  - a. Note: letter must be from a professional who will support the therapeutic use of the iPad

4. Disability-Related Modifications

- A. Two bids from different contractors, including diagrams
- B. A support letter from professional
  - a. Signed
  - b. On letterhead
- C. Proof of insurance from a licensed contractor (ie. auto, liability, workers compensation)
- D. Pictures of home and surroundings for home modifications, fences, etc.
- E. Proof of ownership of home/ authorization from landlord to perform the work requested
- F. Bids must be identical (same services or same products and specifications)
- G. Proof of denial of payment from other funding sources, if applicable

5. Caregiving

- A. Proof of determination letters from other funding sources
  - a. Examples: Waiver, FSS, Base Funding, ODP, Health Insurance, other
- B. A support letter from professional
  - a. Signed
  - b. On letterhead
- C. Suggested vendor/agency with information on hourly rates and proposed number of hours
- D. Proof of denial of payment from other funding sources, if applicable

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## VII. HOW TO APPLY

The Residual Team meets on a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for applications are the first of these months. It's suggested that applicants submit their application well in advance of the applicable deadline in case there is additional information and/or documentation necessary for review.

- Go to [www.achievafamilytrust.org](http://www.achievafamilytrust.org)
- Select the Charitable Residual Account (on the left hand side)
- Click on "Residual Application"
- For submission
  - Fax: 412-995-5013
  - Address: 711 Bingham Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
Attention: Residual Account Coordinator
  - Email: [residual@achieva.info](mailto:residual@achieva.info)

If the applicant or the person completing the application does not have access to a computer, please contact ACHIEVA Family Trust 412-995-5000 x565