



HELPING HAND FUND POLICY

Helping Hand Fund

There are over 300 different types of primary immune deficiency diseases. Often people living with PID, or those caring for them can face financial hardship in part due to the disease.

For example, a child born with Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID)* may face hospitalization for up to a year, usually at a hospital that is not close to their home. The family may have to be apart, and it takes huge resources to establish any semblance of family unity.

One such child, Lilia, spurred the creation of **CIPO's Helping Hand Fund** created in 2006 in partnership with Lindt and it continues to be used to help families where PID exists and there is financial need. Families are well screened and clearly establish need. Where community fundraising is held, the fund may also be used as an incentive to increase donations by donation matching.

Funds might be used to assist families in the following ways:

- Travel and accommodation expenses when a child with primary immune deficiency is hospitalized for a long duration.
- Family counseling.
- Assistance with extraordinary medical costs.
- Temporary financial support for patients (both adult and pediatric) needing home treatment but who are unable to pay for medical supplies, coupled with advocacy to find long-term solutions.

Receipts and a clear demonstration of financial need are necessary before support is considered and provided. Financial assistance is at the discretion of CIPO, and while all applications will be considered, due to limited funds available not all requests are granted. Requests are considered on a case by case basis.

*While Lilia spurred the creation of this fund, it is not limited to a diagnosis of SCID, this fund is open to anyone with a diagnosed with Primary Immune Deficiency Disease.