
PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (POFAP)

Description

The Pediatric Oncology Financial Assistance Program (POFAP) is a reimbursement fund for families with children in active cancer treatment. POFAP provides over \$750,000 each year to families in Ontario to offset some of the out-of-pocket costs they incur when a child is in treatment.

The Need for Funding

Families face tremendous out-of-pocket costs when a child is in cancer treatment. These include accommodation, food and child care for siblings under the age of 12. Moreover, it is not uncommon for one parent to leave work to care for the sick child, resulting in a loss of family income. POGO studies show that this consumes a third of the average family's after-tax income and costs Ontario families a total of \$8 million a year. Each year, over 700 families rely on support from POFAP.

History

POFAP was funded and administered by the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), Ontario Division until 2000 when a shift in the organization's mandate led to the cancellation of the program. On behalf of the childhood cancer community, POGO entered into a temporary funding partnership with the CCS and assumed responsibility for program administration. As per the terms of this agreement, for a 3.5-year period beginning in the fall of 2002, CCS provides just under 35 per cent of the \$500,000 annual budget for POFAP, with POGO funding the balance. This agreement was renewed in March 2006 for one year and again in March 2007 for a period of three years. POGO will remain responsible for insuring the on-going availability of POFAP funds for families who rely on this support.

Goal

POGO's immediate goal is to raise \$2.5 million over a 5-year campaign to ensure the ongoing success of this vital program.

Contact

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