WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Massachusetts Child is a charitable corporation founded by MTA members in 1996 to help students struggling with financial need. The Mass Child is a reimbursement program available to all MTA preK-12 local associations. Members use funds from their local associations to purchase qualifying items for students, and Mass Child reimburses the local associations. Please note that Mass Child cannot reimburse individual members; all grant applications must have the signature of the local president.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

AFTER using funds from your local association for qualifying purchases, complete a reimbursement form found online at massteacher.org/masschild and be sure to include receipts with submission.

To see if an expense qualifies for reimbursement, email Mass Child Board President Nicole Prevost at suzyjojo@aol.com or MTA Staff Consultant Scott McLennan at smclennan@massteacher.org. For more information and reimbursement forms, visit massteacher.org/masschild.

WHAT WE REIMBURSE

MTA locals with fewer than 500 members are eligible for reimbursement grants of up to $1,000 during the course of the school year. Locals with 500 or more members can receive grants totaling $2 per member.

Standard grants can be used to reimburse purchases of clothing, shoes, hygiene products and eyeglasses, as well as school supplies that are not usually provided by the district such as backpacks, notebooks and pens. Many locals use the grants to make sure that students have appropriate winter clothing. Grants have also been used to assist vocational school students with license fees, work clothing and supplies that are not provided by the school. Items must be for specific students; bulk purchases will not be reimbursed.

The Summer Reading Grant is designed to get books into the hands of students for their enjoyment. Locals with 500 or fewer members can apply for up to $200, and locals with more than 500 members are eligible for $500. Books must be intended for specific children in need. Ideally the book selections will not be required reading, but books that students themselves choose to read during the summer break. The application process for Summer Reading Grants begins in May.

Mass Child can provide some assistance with funding for extracurricular activities. Local associations can apply for up to $100 to reimburse financial assistance provided to students so they can participate in extracurricular activities requiring school-based fees. For example, the grant can be used toward a needy student’s portion of the cost for field trip admission fees or transportation and for fees required to participate in enrichment opportunities, clubs or athletic teams.

Thanks to a generous donation from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Mass Child can reimburse local associations for assistance that educators provide students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant will address any need stemming from the impact of COVID-19. In addition to the supplemental education items covered by the Remote Learning Grants introduced in the spring, grants from the COVID-19 Relief Fund can be applied to the purchase of technology, such as headphones and devices used by students working remotely. These grants can also be used to help students experiencing food insecurity or be in need of personal protective equipment. Through Dec. 31, every MTA preK-12 local can apply for up to $1,000 in COVID-19 Relief Funds. The Mass Child Board of Directors will evaluate the availability and size of grants for additional funding starting Jan. 1, 2021. COVID-19 Relief Funds are available in addition to the Standard Grants.