



# FAMILY COST SHARE EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

**Definition**

An average monthly or yearly unreimbursed (“out of pocket”) expense that is related specifically to the eligible child’s disability or an immediate family member with a disability or long term health issue. Deductions might include specific purchases, expenses, modifications, and alterations that family members have made within the previous month or year to accommodate the extended/additional needs of the eligible child or family member. Extenuating circumstances may include unexpected events that affect the family’s financial situation.

Extraordinary expenses cannot include out of pocket expenses for anticipated services or any expenses for which other funding resources have been requested to assist in paying for the same products and services. Extraordinary or extenuating circumstances must be supported by written documentation.

Families may complete and submit to the Department of Health and Senior Services – Early Intervention System an Application for Income Adjustment for consideration of the expenses listed below.

**Assistance to obtain and complete an Application for Income Adjustment is available through the family’s service coordinator.**

<b>Allowable Extraordinary Expenses for Possible Income Adjustment</b>	
<b>Medical Expenses</b>	<b>Documentation Required</b>
<p><b>Unreimbursed medical expenses greater than 5% NJEIS determined income and less than 10-15% required for Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Program</b></p> <p><b>Unreimbursed</b> medical expenses may be for both the eligible child and immediate family members with disabilities or extended illness. Expenses may include prescription formula, physician ordered nutritional supplements, durable medical equipment, specialized dental care, specialized vision care, medical tests and procedures, appointments with medical specialists, personal care needs and bills for hospitalization.</p> <p>Expenses may not include over the counter or alternative nutritional supplements, complementary or alternative treatment procedures (e.g. Auditory Integration, Cranial Sacral Therapy, Facilitated Communication, and Music Therapy).</p> <p>Complementary or alternative treatment is defined as any intervention/procedure <u>not</u> recognized by mainstream professional standards, including those of the pediatric community and/or governmental agencies charged with investigation of treatment protocols (e.g. FDA CDC, NIH, etc.).</p>	<p>Copies of bills or receipts with an explanation for each. The total amount must be greater than 5% of the family’s NJEIS determined annual income. Only the amount that is more than the 5% and less than the qualifying amount for the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Program will be adjusted against income.</p>

**Allowable Extraordinary Expenses for Possible Income Adjustment**

<b>Insurance Deductibles and Co-payments</b>	<b>Documentation Required</b>
<p>Insurance deductibles and co-payment will be reconciled against the family cost share when a family provides consent to EIS to bill insurance or the family uses insurance toward the cost of early intervention services agreed to in the IFSP.</p>	<p>Invoices, explanation of benefits and cancelled checks.</p>
<b>Child Care</b>	<b>Documentation Required</b>
<p>If the parent(s) living in the home works, any cost that is above and beyond the usual and customary/average cost of child care for a child without special needs being cared for in the same manner, in a similar setting (community-based child care, home/family child care, etc.) or by a comparable provider. Only the difference between what is charged for the child with special needs and charges for the typical child may be deducted.</p>	<p>Copies of bills, receipts and an explanation of the extraordinary costs for child care for the child with special needs.</p>
<b>Accommodation Expenses</b>	<b>Documentation Required</b>
<p><b>Unreimbursed</b> capital expenses for equipment or improvements/modifications to the home/car needed for medical care or accommodation of the eligible child or an immediate family member with a disability or extended illness.</p> <p>Expenses may not include normal home maintenance, home additions, general home improvements, landscaping or decorative improvements.</p>	<p>Invoices, cancelled checks and an explanation of the expense as it relates to the eligible child or immediate family member.</p>