



**2023 CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS
For COCA Members ONLY
Open for Submissions: February 23 – March 31**

Overview

In 1984, a group of Kampgrounds of America (KOA) Franchisees created Care Camps to provide funding for specialized pediatric oncology camps. Their goal was to help children with cancer and their families experience the healing power of the outdoors.

In 2014, Care Camps and COCA formed a strategic alliance in which Care Camps acts as a national fundraising agent and COCA oversees the quality assurance program for the camps.

Almost 40 years later, Care Camps has raised more than \$24 million in donations and supports 132 pediatric oncology camps across North America thanks to a wide array of corporate partners in the outdoor industry, campgrounds, and individuals.

COCA Requirements

Each year, Care Camps, in partnership with COCA, provides an opportunity for medically supervised oncology camps to apply for funding through a grant application process.

To qualify to apply for a Care Camps' grant, the requirements are as followed:

- The camp must be a member of COCA and dues must be paid for the current membership year.
- A representative from your camp must attend the COCA conference or a regional meeting at least once every three years to receive grant funding.
- Please note for future reference, ALL CAMPS must have started COCA's Gold Ribbon process by December 31, 2023, to receive grant funding from Care Camps in 2024. New Camps must begin within two years of joining COCA.

Contact Jennifer Amundsen, COCA Executive Director, at jennifer.amundsen@cocai.org for any questions about the COCA membership or requirements.

Grant Application

Care Camps grant application includes two independent separate sections to apply for funding –

Operational and Capital Grants:

- **Operational Grants** fund expenses related to the operations of your camp's services and programs. Operating expenses make up most of the allocated Care Camps funds. This section of the application is 52 questions which all must be completed to be considered for funding.
- **Capital Grants** is a separate section in the application included in the Operational grant application and consists of six additional questions. Please answer questions in this section *ONLY* if your camp is requesting additional funds to purchase specific items to improve your services and programs.

NOTE: Care Camps has a limited amount of funding available to help support the purchase of capital items or improvements. Examples of these expenditures/capital improvements are

sports equipment, new mattresses, canoes, computer upgrades, first aid equipment, personal protection equipment. etc. Capital grants usually average \$3,500 to \$5,000.

Funds received from Capital Grants must be spent within the funding year and cannot be carried forward. Proof of purchase and proof of payment are required for cost reimbursement.

Grant Terms and Requirements

In addition to completing the grant application, the items below are required to receive funding from Care Camps.

Financial - Send the following five documents from your camp no later than March 31, 2023:

1. Your charity's most recent IRS 990 form or their Canadian T3010
2. Certificate of liability insurance stating the current amount of liability coverage
3. Financials for 2022 (if final numbers are not available yet, then drafts may be submitted)
4. Projected budget for 2023
5. Audited financial statements for 2022, if available (or 2021, if 2022 is not yet available)

Please email the supporting documents for the financial requirements to info@carecamps.org.

Marketing and Communications – Care Camps is *requesting two stories and accompanying photos* from each camp to engage and inspire our donors and audience to fund your camp.

Before submitting your application:

- Link to the [Care Camps website](#) on your camps' website. (Please add link before submitting your application.)
- Follow Care Camps on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Make Care Camps a part of your social media. Please like, tag, and share with us as we grow our social sphere to increase funding for camps.

After receiving funding and during your camp sessions:

- Add the [Care Camps logo](#) to your promotional materials when possible. Note: Our current logo has a Gold Ribbon in the box at the top, not a KOA logo.

By or before September 15, 2023, send:

- **One impact story with an accompanying photo** about a child, a family, a sibling, or a volunteer. For any publications, Care Camps will credit your camp's name and location.
 - **Story specifics:**
 - Tell a brief story of the child and their cancer journey. This can be a couple of paragraphs. The focus should be on how your camp has positively impacted them, their siblings, and/or their family.
 - Include the age, first name, and cancer diagnosis.
 - If possible, include quotes from the parents or child.
 - Please submit stories in a word document format.
 - See example: [Antonio's Impact Story](#)
 - **Photo specifics:**
 - Choose an impact photo, preferably of the child alone, with siblings, or of the family. Group photos make it difficult to tell who the story is about.
- **One full-circle story with an accompanying photo** about a child whose life has been impacted by their camp experience. Where are they now?
 - **Story specifics:**
 - As Care Camps looks to celebrate our 40th anniversary we want to highlight children who have been inspired to serve in the camp or oncology setting as a result of their camp experience.

- Examples could include, becoming a camp employee/volunteer, serving on a board that impacts children or cancer, serving in the medical profession, or any other oncology-related field, etc.
- Include the camp they attended, a brief outline of their cancer journey with a focus on where they are now, and the impact they have on their community.
- Please submit stories in a word document format.
- See example: [Maggie's Full-Circle Story](#)
- **Photo Specifics:**
 - Include a current photo of the camper.
 - Individual photos work best, so we know who the story is about.

Please email the Marketing and Communications materials to info@carecamps.org.

Timeline and Review Process

- **February 23:** Grant application open for submission.
- **February 28** COCA/Care Camps webinar #1 for potential applicants. [Click here to register.](#)
- **March 1:** COCA/Care Camps webinar #2 for potential applicants. [Click here to register.](#)
- **March 31:** Grant application closes for submission.
- **April 3-21:** Care Camps Grant Committee review and selection.
- **April 24-28:** Camps notified via email re: grant awards.
- **May 1-15:** Checks distributed payable to camps.

Contact

For questions, contact Lexi Bickford, Care Camps Program Coordinator, at Lexi@carecamps.org.