



# AMACHIWAYHAATAAK (LET'S SOAR) PROGRAM HANDBOOK

MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN  
EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE



# Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program

The Amachiwayhaataak – Let's Soar Program provides financial support to families of Métis children (aged birth to age 12) who have additional or specialized needs. This program helps families access the educational, health and social supports they need for their child(ren).

The goal is to give parents the confidence and comfort to have their children succeed in their educational journey.

The Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program will run from April 1 to March 31.

Please forward any general questions to the Let's Soar Coordinator at [LetsSoar@mns.ca](mailto:LetsSoar@mns.ca)

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# Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program

## About the Program

The Amachiwayhaataak-Let's Soar Program helps families access the educational, health and social supports they need for their child(ren) who have additional or specialized needs. Through this program families can apply for financial support to assist with the cost of a wide range of services, programs and products.

MN-S recognizes that each child's situation is unique, and some children may require multiple supports and services. Please contact us to discuss your child's needs.

## Eligibility

### To be eligible for the Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program:

- The child must be aged birth to 12. The child will age out of the program the first day of the month following their 13th birthday.
- The child must be an MN-S citizen or in the process of acquiring citizenship\* and must not have applied for First Nation status. \*Please visit the MN-S website for citizenship information.
- The applicant (parent/guardian) must provide documentation (a referral from a health, social, or special education professional) that supports the need for the service or product requested.
- The applicant (parent/guardian) and child must reside within Saskatchewan.
- The applicant (parent/guardian) applying must reside with the child.

## What is covered?

Please confirm coverage in advance with the Let's Soar Coordinator before making any purchases or contracting services.

### Some examples of what can potentially be funded include:

#### Health

- Mobility Aids
- Mental Health Services
- Specialized hearing aids
- Assessment & Screenings
- Therapeutic Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Feeding Therapy



# Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program

## Social

- Specialized Summer Camp
- Respite Care

## Education

- Tutoring Services
- Specialized Desk and Writing Tools
- Psycho-Educational Assessments
- Assistive Technologies and Electronics

\*Financial support for any service, equipment, or assessment is at the sole discretion of MN-S.

## Guidelines

- Applicants will be assigned to the Let's Soar Coordinator that will be your point of contact during the program.
- Families can request up to \$5000.00 per program year.
- Requests over \$5000.00 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Families only need to apply once per child. Requests for additional services can be requested by submitting a new quote or invoice to the Let's Soar Coordinator. Additional requests for funding are not guaranteed.
- Applicants may submit as many requests for services or equipment as needed. Requests for funding are reviewed by a committee and are not guaranteed.
- Funding terms and conditions may change throughout the program year.
- Services and equipment are eligible only when your child is aged birth to age 12. Invoices or receipts must be dated before the first day of the month following the child's 13th birthday.

## Requesting a Reimbursement

- Applicants can request a reimbursement for products or services that have already been paid for earlier in the fiscal year.
- Applicants must submit a referral from a specialist in the field for the need of the service or equipment.
- Reimbursement must be approved by the Let's Soar Coordinator.



# Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program

## Program Dates

- This program is ongoing. Changes to the program are adjusted at the end of each fiscal year, which runs from April 1 to March 31.
- Applications are ongoing and will continue to be received until the budget is expensed.
- Invoices and receipts are processed in the order they are received.
- Funding is issued for each fiscal year and cannot be carried over from previous years.
- Families accessing funding from the program, do not need to re-apply at the end of each fiscal year. Services will be reviewed with the vendor to determine continued support.

## Completing your application

### How to Apply

- Complete the online application form found on the MN-S website. Paper applications can be provided upon request.
- If you are applying for more than one child, you must make an additional application for each child.
- Fill in all required details on the application.

### Documentation

Please have the following documentation ready when the Let's Soar Coordinator contacts you, they will request the following documents that are required for your application:

- A referral to support your request. This referral must be obtained from an educational, medical, or social professional (such as medical doctor, educational psychologist, or special educational professional).
- A quote or invoice from the referred service indicating the cost of each requested service (including hourly rate) and number of sessions (if applicable).
- A picture or scan of the child's health card.

**MN-S may request receipts for approved purchases at any time. Please keep all receipts for eligible purchases.**

### Payments

To receive the funds, you will be required to submit:

- A pre-authorized debit form or a void cheque.
- Direct deposit (EFT) Form filled out. (Form provided by the Let's Soar Coordinator)

**\*Please advise the Let's Soar Coordinator promptly if you have a change in your banking information.**



# Amachiwayhaataak (Let's Soar) Program

## Taxes

The MN-S Let's Soar funds are considered taxable income and may affect your income taxes. This means that the funds you receive from the grant will be added to your overall gross income and be taxed. The applicant will be issued a T4A in February, for the previous year.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if I have more than one child who needs support?

If more than one child needs support, you can apply for each one on an individual basis.

### What if my child is not a Métis citizen?

To be eligible for the program your child must be registered as an MN-S citizen or have an application in process.

### Who can provide a referral or prescription?

The referral that is specific to the request needs to come from a professional that is working with your child such as:

- A special education professional
- A doctor
- A psychologist
- An occupational or speech therapist

### Can I get reimbursed for past services?

Parents will need to submit a referral and proof of purchase to be considered for reimbursement for supports and services within the program year.

### How do I find services and supports in my area?

Reach out to the Let's Soar Coordinator at [LetsSoar@mns.ca](mailto:LetsSoar@mns.ca), and we will work to get you connected to appropriate resources and supports in your area.

## Definitions

**Applicant:** Applicant refers to the parent or caregiver who will be applying for reimbursement for their child/ren.

**Co-Applicant:** Co-Applicant refers to a secondary parent or caregiver who will be listed on the application. This person can access information on the application.

**Let's Soar Coordinator:** The coordinator is the person who manages case files and will be your main point of contact for the program.

**Family Support Administrator (FSA):** The Family Support Administrator carries out administrative processes for this program and sends communications.

**Referral:** A letter or document from an special educational or medical professional outlining a specific diagnosis or treatment plan.