

How to Use This Document

Researchers sometimes have funds available to support training people who are working with them on research or other projects. However, asking for funding from researchers is not something family members do all the time. Sometimes it's because family members don't know that they can ask, and sometimes it's because they don't feel comfortable asking.

We acknowledge that asking for funding is not always easy to do. We want to provide you with a tool you can use to open a conversation with a researcher or supervisor who you work with. You can adapt the email template below to ask the researcher or supervisor if they would consider providing you with needed funds to support your learning as a family partner.

If you have questions about talking with the researcher or supervisor you are working with, you are welcome to contact Rachel Martens (martensr@mcmaster.ca), the FER engagement specialist, who can help you with this.

Email Template

Subject: *Learning Opportunity through Family Engagement in Research Course*

Dear [researcher/supervisor's name],

I recently learned about a course called the Family Engagement in Research (FER) Course that teaches researchers and family members how to work together on research projects. This course is offered online through McMaster Continuing Education in partnership with CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research and Kids Brain Health Network. Students in this course learn the importance of family perspectives in research; how to engage together to shape research projects; which tools and resources are available to support family engagement in research; and practice collaboratively working together via a group project to co-create a knowledge translation tool related to family engagement in research. Students also receive a certificate of completion upon successfully completing the FER course.

As part of my connection to [insert the research, project, or organization name that you are connected to], I hope to learn more about sharing my perspectives as a family member. To take this course, there is a cost of \$500.00 CAD. I am wondering if you would be able and interested to fund and support me so that I can take this course. Scholarships are available and priority is given to family partners and trainees who do not have any funding from an organization, project, or supervisor.

Additional details about the FER course:

- Course dates:
 - **Fall Cohort:** September 19 – November 27, 2022
 - **Winter Cohort:** January 16 – March 26, 2023
- Duration: 10 weeks
- Cost: \$500.00 CAD
- More information: visit www.canchild.ca/fercourse or contact fer@mcmaster.ca

This course will be an invaluable learning experience. If it's possible to be funded for this learning opportunity, I would love to talk more with you about it. I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

[your name]