

# WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

Variety—the Children’s Charity provides children with disabilities unique programs, experiences, and equipment, so they may live life to the fullest and not be left out, left behind, or excluded.

**Variety offers three adaptive equipment programs for eligible children:**

**1) Variety’s My Bike® Program**, which currently provides Rifton adaptive bikes (with Rifton accessories) to children with disabilities, so they can experience the joy, freedom, and belonging that’s created through riding a bike.

**2) Variety’s My Stroller® Program**, which currently provides a Kid Kart® Mighty Lite adaptive stroller to eligible kids to use for on-the-go mobility or general safety/inclusion in the community. **NOT your typical toddler stroller, but equipment to let families stroll together.**

- ⇒ **Parents tell us** that their child is a runner or bolter, and they don’t have a way to keep them safe while out in the community—so they stay home. An adaptive stroller takes away that fear / anxiety.
- ⇒ **Parents also tell us** they must typically choose between getting a wheelchair or an alternative option. Though, a wheelchair is more necessary, an adaptive stroller allows for easier “on-the-go” mobility and participation in daily activities.
- ⇒ **Parents have explained** that with an adaptive stroller, kids and families are no longer isolated or left out, and it has an immediate impact.

**3) Variety’s My Voice® Program** provides a communication device (i.e. a restricted iPad with a prescribed communication app) to eligible children with a communication disorder to give them a voice at all times – helping kids to express their thoughts, feelings, wants, and needs.

- ⇒ The device is only for communication, so all features are disabled / restricted to focus on the child’s prescribed communication app. —making the device their voice.

“Our **My Voice®** Program is financed {in part} by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development as well as generously funded by community donations.”

## SOME THINGS TO KNOW:

- **You can apply for more than one piece of equipment!** If an eligible child can benefit from one, two, or all three pieces of equipment, then we want you to apply for them!
- After 3 years from receiving their equipment, eligible kids can re-apply for a second bike/stroller (if they’ve outgrown the first) or communication device. **See pages 10,12-13.**
- There is **NO CATCH** to our programs. Equipment is free to those that qualify.

**My Bike / My Stroller applicants are required** to attend a scheduled presentation time with their parent or legal guardian to receive their customized medical equipment, to conduct a final fitting, and to review all safety / equipment specifics.

Scheduling these presentations can take time to coordinate, so your patience is greatly appreciated.

**For My Voice applicants**, Variety will work with the child’s Speech Language Pathologist to get the device ready and present it to the child safely at a predetermined location (family’s home, therapy...).

All equipment must be presented within one year of application approval or a new application must be completed.

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

**1) Geography:** Must live in one of the 71 counties that Variety currently serves, including:

**59 counties in Pennsylvania:** Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Somerset, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York.

**12 counties in West Virginia:** Barbour, Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, and Wetzel.

**Note:** Currently, Variety is only able to provide equipment to a child living in a household with his/her parent or legal guardian (e.g. equipment cannot be provided to a child living in a group home).

**2) Diagnosis:** Have a diagnosed physical, mental, and/or sensory disability documented by one of the certified medical professional listed on **page 10 or 12**, or (**if applying for a communication device**), a documented communication disorder by your child’s licensed Speech Language Pathologist (preferably with ASHA Certification) - **see page 13**.

**3) Age:** Must be 3 through 21 years of age. An application may be submitted up to 60 days prior to a child’s 3rd birthday, but equipment cannot be presented until the child is 3 years old.

**4) Income:** Applicant's household income must not exceed Variety’s income guidelines listed below. Income verification is required with the application (**see pages 6-7**).

# Of Household Members	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Household Salary	\$87,100	\$109,800	\$132,500	\$155,200	\$177,900	\$200,600	\$223,300	\$246,000

—For each additional household member, please add \$22,700.

# HOW TO APPLY:

1. Complete the entire application to the best of your knowledge. **PLEASE PRINT IN INK.**
2. If you need help or have questions, please contact us (**724-933-0460** / [info@variety pittsburgh.org](mailto:info@variety pittsburgh.org)).
3. Include all documentation to verify household income (**see pages 6-7**).
4. Request a “letter of medical justification” from a licensed medical professional for the program(s) you’re applying to (**see pages 10-13 or contact us**).
5. Each parent/legal guardian living in the household with the child **MUST** sign and date the application before it can be processed (**on page 14**).

The application can also be completed online at [www.variety pittsburgh.org/applynow](http://www.variety pittsburgh.org/applynow).