

Variety Program MythBusters:

- **Families do not know Variety** – there are many kids and families *missing out* on our free programs simply because they don't know that Variety exists. This is especially true with us being based out of Pittsburgh, while striving to serve eligible kids in 59-counties throughout Pennsylvania.
- **Our programs are “too good to be true”** – the equipment we provide is very expensive, so many parents immediately think that our programs are, “too good to be true.” While others often ask, “what’s the catch?” because it is rare that this equipment is provided for free. **There is no catch.**
- **Families think they make “too” much money to qualify** – however, our income guidelines are intentionally at 500% of the federal poverty level, so a family of 4 can make up to \$156,000 and still qualify. Many families immediately assume they do not qualify because both parents are working, but our programs recognize that on average, **it costs 4-5 times more** to raise a child with disabilities.
- **Similar program applications are very long** – we have heard from families that their experience with similar social service programs involved a lot of paperwork and time, but we are here to help make the process easy for families. Families indicate that Variety’s process is very easy!
- **Families only apply to one program** – a lot of kids that receive 1 piece of equipment from Variety can also benefit from a 2nd or 3rd, but families often assume they must choose only one. However, **Variety encourages eligible families to apply for one, two, or all three pieces of equipment** at once if their child can benefit (without feeling they're “taking too much”, as many have expressed).

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **We submitted an application – how long before we hear back?**
Currently, we are receiving a large volume of applications every week, and processing applications can take a few weeks or more. Variety is a small but dedicated team that truly wants to help your family, so we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding.
2. **Can we apply for a second piece of the same equipment?**
Yes! After 4 years after receiving the first bike, and 3 years after receiving the first stroller or communication device, eligible kids can re-apply for a second.
3. **My child received two bikes from Variety, can we apply for a third?**
Unfortunately, due to funding and our goal of reaching as many children as possible, we are limited to only providing a maximum of 2 pieces of the same equipment per child (for example, Jimmy can receive a maximum of 2 bikes, 2 strollers, and 2 communication devices from Variety).
4. **Our household is over the income limit, is there anything you can recommend?**
Variety’s income guidelines follow the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and we annually update them in late-January (typically increasing the limit each year). So, if you’re close, then please check back.

For families living in PA, you may be eligible for [Achieva’s Charitable Residual Program](#).
Some other helpful resources include: [Reagan’s Journey Closet](#), [Great Bike Giveaway](#), [AbleNet](#)
5. **How does Variety fund the equipment it provides?**
Most equipment is funded by community donations and support via individuals, corporations, and foundations with Variety philanthropically raising the funds. So, community support has been critical.

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS.