

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

To be eligible for FIMH Foundation Service Dog, an individual must:

- Be 4+ years old
- Be in an ongoing education program
- Be in a speech, physical, occupational or recreational therapy program
- Can be a “runner”
- Have excellent family support
- Have a parent or guardian trained as a facilitator; sibling facilitators need to be 18 years or older. Please note that in a two-parent household both parents are required to attend training classes prior to the placement of the dog.
- Have the ability to train with their dog a minimum of one hour a day during team training
- Have no other dog in the home (can have other animals)

While FIMH Foundation has established eligibility criterion for the types of Assistance Dogs we provide, we do not discriminate against any applicant based on race, color, creed, gender, religion, marital status, age, nationality, physical or mental disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, citizenship status, military service status or any other consideration as indicated by federal, state or local laws.

Information Sheet on Packet

Best way to submit the packet is to scan in all the documents (including the picture) and email it to (Preferred method): . The full packet can also be mailed to:

[Forever in my heart foundation, 476 main st, Middletown, ct 06457](#)

Photo of self/your child: Our staff always loves to see a picture of you or your child! We spend a lot of time training our puppies and it helps us to have a picture in our mind of who the dog will be going to. It can be hard not to get attached to our puppies and we find that a picture helps us focus on all the good the dog will do for you and your family. You can email us the picture, you can send it to us via FB messenger, or you can have it printed and mail it in with the full packet.

Video (Min 15 minutes): Getting videos of you or your child is extremely important to us. In some cases, we may not meet with you until we actually match you with your new puppy. The videos give us a lot of information on you/your child and the environment that the service dog will eventually be in. 15 minutes is a minimum, you are welcome to send more videos if needed. The videos will help us decide what specific tasks we need to train the dog on. Additionally, they help us to see what type of dog we need, large/medium, the temperament of the dog, etc. They also help us to see what type of environmental things we need to socialize the dog around prior to delivery (pools, playground, pets, etc.)

We need to see videos of what you/your child are hoping to have the service dog help with. For example, if we are providing deep pressure therapy during a meltdown, we need to see the actual meltdown at the level of intensity that is normally shown and at the highest level. If the issue is stimming, we need to see actual videos of the different types of stimming that is occurring. We need to see interactions with personal pets, interactions with other family members (if applicable), both good and bad. For elopement issues, we need to see how strongly the child is pulling to get away from you.

you can email them to info@foreverinmyheartfoundation.org, you can send them via FB messenger. If you have an iphone, you can text them to us at [860-490-2170](tel:860-490-2170). You can use free websites like: WeTransfer.com or SendAnywhere.com

Family Commitment Letter (FCL): As most people that are getting a service dog have never had a service dog. We are here to help your family understand that getting a service dog requires a large commitment for everyone in the household. In the letter we try to point out and explain what to expect when you bring in a service dog into your lives. We want to know that the entire family is aware of this life changing occurrence of getting a service dog.

Script from Primary Physician: We require a script from one of your child's doctors. The script can be written on a prescription pad stating "Service Dog for Autism" or a letterhead. We would also like your doctor to write that they are recommending a service dog for your child. It is helpful if your doctor does this, that he/she comments on the tasks that they think might be beneficial to help with your child disability.

Veterinarian Reference: If you own or owned other pets (any pets, not necessary dogs), we need you to print out this form and give it to your current vet to fill out. They should send it back to us directly, but if they sign it and give it to you, you can scan it in and send it with the packet.

5 Day log: The 5-day log is very important as it gives us a snapshot of you/your child's typical days. It may tell us things like, what times are really challenging, how often are there issues, who/what helps them when there are issues, etc. The more details you write on the logs, the better we will be able to figure out what type of tasks that we may need to train your service dog on. if you are very active on the weekends and do a lot of activities, it would be good for us to see what a typical weekend looks like for you.

3 Letters of Reference: We need three letters of reference from you. One needs to be from one of your/your child's therapist. The other two letters can be from family, friends, neighbors, etc. We just want you to find people who know you/your child and can attest that they believe that a service dog would be a good fit for your family. We also would like to hear about things like they believe you are situated to handle a service dog (both emotionally and financially), that a service dog would be helpful to you and not too much for you all to handle. They can email us the letters to info@foreverinmyheartfoundation.org , or mail in a seal envelope to:

FIMH Foundation, 476 Main St. Middletown, CT 06457