

Natural Helpers®

Costs and Funding



What are the costs of the program?

The costs of the program depend on the number of participants trained, the site for Initial Training, the method of Initial Training (Retreat versus Series), and local resources. Each school's situation is different, but consider the following examples that require funds:

- Training for Natural Helpers leaders (registration, travel, other expenses)
- Purchase of The Natural Helpers® curriculum/kit (The curriculum/kit may be borrowed from one of the State Natural Helpers coordinators)
- Trainers' stipends (if your own Natural Helpers® program's leaders are unable to facilitate)
- Housing and food for Initial Training (Cost varies depending on whether you opt for Retreat or Series Training – lodging for retreat, meals and snacks for participants, leaders, and trainers.)
- Teachers' release time
- Materials (paper, supplies, surveys, duplicating expenses and other supplies)
- Postage
- Transportation (cars, bus, van, mileage)

Where can I get the funds for the program?

Since the benefits of the Natural Helpers® program are so widespread,

sometimes the funding can also be obtained from:

- District funds
- Building funds
- Student body funds
- Grants (foundations, county, state, federal)
- Parent/Faculty club
- The community (individuals, organizations, businesses service clubs and other community clubs)
- Parent/Teacher student organizations
- Fund-raisers (carwash, bake sale, and other means of raising funds)
- In-kind contributions

It may be beneficial for the Natural Helpers® participants to invest a small amount toward their own training (\$10 to 15). This tends to make them more accountable and makes the training more valuable to them.

Try to establish a stable and continuing funding source. The school district and school building administrator can show support for Natural Helpers® in many ways, but the most convincing way is for them to include the program in their budgets year after year. Consider inviting a funding source to the initial training experience; it may encourage the individual to become more invested in the program.

Lack of funds is an easy excuse for not getting involved in the Natural Helpers® program. Don't give up – the dollars will come from somewhere if you keep looking!