

Grants and Financial Assistance for Families affected by Autism

There are several different organizations that offer grants and financial assistance to those affected by autism. A summary is below; please visit each organization's website for up-to-date details on how to apply.

National Autism Association

<http://nationalautismassociation.org>

The **Helping Hand Program** provides families with financial assistance in getting necessary medical treatments, lab testing, physician-recommended supplements and therapies for their child with autism. This program does not provide funding for iPads, camp tuition, respite care, fencing, trampolines, swingsets, trips to Disney World, etc.

Funding is extremely limited. This program is intended **ONLY** for parents in DIRE financial need, with annual net income below \$50,000. Helping Hand grants are one-time grants, previous recipients may not re-apply.

For grant guidelines, complete details and the Helping Hand application form, go to <http://nationalautismassociation.org/family-support/programs/helping-hand/>

ACT Today! SOS Program

<http://www.act-today.org/SOS/>

The **SOS Program** is dedicated to supporting the immediate and imperative needs of those impacted by autism. We recognize that some individuals diagnosed with autism who are in immediate personal danger or harm are unable to wait up to 12 weeks for a response to their request. The ACT Today! SOS Program is designed to provide immediate support for these families based upon need and the program funds available.

- Applicant must have an immediate need for treatment/support and if treatment is not found, the applicant's physical safety is in jeopardy
- The Program will fund effective treatments and services to treat autism spectrum disorders and cannot fund living expenses, travel, utilities or clothing
- Income level of the applicant's family must be below \$45,000/year

United Healthcare Children's Foundation

<http://www.uhccf.org/apply/>

UHCCF grants provide financial help/assistance for families with children (16 and under) who have medical needs that are not covered or not fully covered by their commercial health insurance plan. The Foundation aims to fill the gap between what medical services/ items a child needs and what their commercial health benefit plan will pay for.

Grants are limited to \$5,000 in a 12 month period, with a lifetime maximum of \$10,000.

ACT Today – Autism Care & Treatment

<http://www.act-today.org/act-today-grant-program.php>

ACT Today! offers quarterly grants to individuals and families affected by Autism, to fund effective treatments, assessments and needed life supports.

They do not fund:

- Transportation requests (cars, car repair, transportation passes, air travel)
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
- Personal Needs (rent, utilities, family vacations)

Grant payments will be made directly to pre-approved treatment providers, assessors or materials vendors.

Typical grants awarded range from \$100 - \$5,000. There is no household income level cap; incomes below \$100,000 per year are reviewed first.

FAQ about the grants are at <http://www.act-today.org/act-today-grant-faq.php>

Quarter	Open Application Period	Families Will Be Notified By:
1st Quarter	January 1 – 31	March 15
2nd Quarter	April 1 – 30	June 15
3rd Quarter	July 1 – 31	September 15
4th Quarter	October 1 - 31	December 15

Autism Speaks

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/financial-assistance>

AutismSpeaks Cares provides support for families affected by autism during natural disasters and other catastrophic life events. The grant program helps families to cover costs associated with critical expenses related to the well-being of the family member with autism on a case-by-case basis.

These are one-time grants to help cover costs associated with critical living expenses. The program pays bills directly to the vendor and does not provide checks for individuals or families.

To learn more and complete an application to determine final eligibility, families must first speak with a representative from the Autism Response Team. Contact them directly by calling 888-288-4762 (or en Español 888-772-9050) or familyservices@autismspeaks.org.