

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/>

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 13, 2015
2nd Quarter	April 1 – 30	June 15, 2015
3rd Quarter	July 1 – 31	September 15, 2015
4th Quarter	October 1 - 31	December 12, 2015

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

Autism Cares

<http://www.autismcares.org>

AutismCares is an Autism Speaks grant program that provides financial support awards of up to \$1,000 for individuals with autism and their families during times of crisis or unplanned hardships.

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.

Eligible individuals and their families have experienced at least one of the following qualifying events in the last 90 days:

- Natural disaster: fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, severe storm or earthquake
- Death or critical illness in the immediate family
- Loss of home through foreclosure, eviction or natural disaster
- Loss of job for the primary income-earner
- Violence: domestic abuse or crime

Examples include car payments, rent/mortgage, home repair, utility bills, childcare and funeral costs. Financial support awards are granted on a monthly basis. Applications must be submitted by the 22nd of each month to be considered for a grant in that month. The maximum Financial Support Award per family is \$1000.