

Financial Resources Guide

Finding financial support can often feel overwhelming for families with children on the autism spectrum. This guide is designed to simplify the process by offering a categorized list of potential funding opportunities. Please note, all options below require an application and funding is not always guaranteed. If you are interested in applying for any, please make sure to check each organization's website for their most up-to-date details.

Reach out to your family's DDS Service Coordinator

If your family is already connected with Department of Developmental Services (DDS), we recommend reaching out to your Service Coordinator and/or caseworker to inquire about potential funding opportunities.

General Assistance

Autism Care Today

- Offers grants up to \$5000 to families, with priority given to those with a household income under \$100,000. Funding may be used for ABA, speech, OT, medications, home safety devices, social skills groups, and more.
- <https://www.act-today.org/apply-for-grant>
- Email: grants@act-today.org
- Phone: 805-506-523 or 877-922-8863



Flutie Foundation

- Provides a variety of funding opportunities for children with ASD in many different areas of support, such as:
 - **Joey's Fund/ Hope's Fund** - wide range of needs
 - **Kodi Lee Gives Back Grant** - music/art opportunities
 - **Community Inclusion Grant** - community participation
 - **Ongoing Immediate Financial Assistance** - emergency aid
- <https://flutiefoundation.org/helping-families/direct-financial-support/>



Willpower Foundation

- Provides grants to families and individuals living in Western Massachusetts. Their grant specialize in funding products and services that are not typically covered by insurance or other resources, including but not limited to mobility and sensory equipment, therapeutic recreation programs, educational advocacy, private tutoring and camp expenses.
- <https://www.willpowerfoundation.org/overview/>
- Email: grants@willpowerfoundation.org
- Phone: 413-341-0151



General Assistance

Social Security Child Disability Report

- Children from birth up to age 18 may get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. They must be disabled and they must have little or no income and resources.
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/i3820/main.html>
- Phone: 1-800-772-1213



Transportation Access Pass (TAP) CharlieCard

- People with disabilities and Medicare cardholders are eligible for reduced MBTA fares with a Transportation Access Pass (TAP) CharlieCard. TAP CharlieCards can be loaded with:
 - Cash value for roughly 50% reduced one-way fares
 - \$10 7-Day LinkPasses
 - \$30 monthly LinkPasses
 - Reduced monthly passes for Commuter Rail, Ferry, and Express Bus
- <https://www.mbta.com/fares/reduced/transportation-access-pass>
- Phone: 617-222-3200



Autism Spectrum Disorder Foundation

- Offers several funding opportunities for autistic children, such as:
 - **The Summer Scholarship Program** for social skills camps, swimming programs, equine assisted services, and others that enhances the child's communication skills and self-confidence
 - **The iPads for Kids Program** distributes iPads to nonverbal autistic individuals as well as special education classrooms
 - **The Holiday Gift Card Program** provides e-gift cards to families with need for financial assistance during the holidays
- <https://myasdf.org/our-programs/>
- Email: myasdf@yahoo.com
- Phone: 877-806-0635



Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

- Special Needs Grants provide financial assistance to active duty CGMA clients who have dependents with special needs. Examples of qualifying costs: specialized activities, adaptive equipment, assistive technology and respite care, etc.
- <https://mycgma.org/programs/special-needs-grant/>
- Email: CGMA@mycgma.org
- Phone: 800-881-2462 (Toll-free) or 703-875-0404
- ****Only for active-duty CGMA clients**



Medical Assistance

MyGOAL Autism Grant Program (Ages 18 and under)

- Offers a yearly grant for families to support and care for individuals under 18 years old with autism. This is a need-based grant for treatments (including vitamins and other nutritional needs) and enrichment and educational needs that may not otherwise be covered privately or by other third-party funding sources such as school districts, county programs, insurance, and/or other grant making entities.
- <https://mygoalinc.org/mygoal-autism-grant-program/>
- Email: info@mygoalinc.org
- Phone: 877-886-9462



Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (Age 22 and under)

- Provides financial relief to eligible Massachusetts families caring for children and youth under 22 years of age with medically related expenses that are not covered by insurance, federal or state assistance, fundraising, or any other financial source.
- <https://www.mass.gov/catastrophic-illness-in-children-relief-fund-cicrf>
- Email: CICRF.DPH@mass.gov
- Phone: (617) 624-5951



United Healthcare Children's Foundation

- Provides medical grants that give kids the care they need by helping with medical expenses that are not covered (or not fully covered) by the family's commercial health insurance.
- <https://www.uhccf.org/apply-for-a-grant/>
- Email: uhccfcustomerservice@uhc.com
- Phone: 855-698-4223



C.A.R.E. Foundation

- Assists families with affording medication, autism diagnosis/evaluation, therapy sessions (including speech, OT and ABA) and autism summer camps. Please note that all grants awarded are paid directly to the vendor or service provider.
- <https://careautismfoundation.com/family-funds/>
- Phone: (833) 222-4226



Medical Assistance

Modest Needs

- Offers Self-Sufficiency Grants to qualified individuals/households in need of the following types of financial support:
 - **Unexpected or emergency expenses**
 - **Monthly bills** that an individual or family cannot afford to pay at the time of their application because of an **extenuating circumstance** within the past year
- <https://www.modestneeds.org/mn/for-applicants>
- Phone: (844) 667-3776



Recreational & Educational

Association for Autism and Neurodiversity (AANE) (Ages 12 and up)

- The Daniel Braun Memorial Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance for a limited number of Autistic individuals ages 12+ who need help paying for group recreational and/or social activities.
- <https://aane.org/services-programs/grants-free-programs/grants-for-adults-families/>
- Email: grants@aane.org
- Phone: (617) 393-3824



Music Movement

- Offers annual grants in several areas of support, such as:
 - **Music Therapy & Instrument Donations**
 - **Wireless Family Fund** (*for families within the wireless/tech industries*) - Living expenses, medical bill, tuition support, etc
 - **Independent Living Initiatives** (*for 18+*) - independent housing programs, camps/retreats, education/therapy
 - **Keys & Kingdoms Grant** - instruments, iPads/computers
- <https://www.music-movement.org/>
- Email: info@music-movement.org



Maggie Welby Foundation Scholarships (Grades K-12)

- Offers scholarships for school children grades K - 12 in need of financial assistance, in memory of Maggie Welby, a 7 year old girl, who was taken very suddenly from her family and friends in 2005.
- <https://www.maggiewelby.org/scholarships-grants>
- Phone (text): 314-330-6947



Recreational & Educational

Celebrate EDU (Ages 16 and up)

- Do you have a business idea but need help getting started? Maybe you need to buy equipment or supplies. Or, perhaps you need to learn some new skills or get a webpage. This microgrant Program can help your business sprout and grow. Available for business ideas of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities age 16 or older.
- <https://celebrateedu.org/microgrants/>
- Email: hello@celebrateedu.org



Assistive Technology & Speech Therapy

Easterseals Massachusetts

- In partnership with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), ESMA offers free assistive technology (AT) equipment and training for individuals with severe disabilities such as computer aids, voice output communication tools, and electronic aids for daily living.
- <https://www.easterseals.com/ma/>
- Email: info@eastersealsma.org
- Phone: (508) 757-2756



My Gym Foundation

- Provides financial aid (up to \$500) to children with physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities and those coping with chronic illness or financial struggles. Requests may include but are not limited to rehabilitative therapy, My Gym classes, assistive devices, medical equipment and sensory items.
- <https://www.mygymfoundation.org/apply-for-a-gift/>
- Email: info@mygymfoundation.org
- Phone: (818) 907-6966



National Autism Association

- Provides communication devices to individuals with autism who are non-verbal or minimally verbal, and whose communication challenges put them at increased risk of injury or harm.
- <https://nationalautismassociation.org/family-support/programs/naas-give-a-voice-program/>
- Email: naa@nationalautism.org
- Phone: 877-622-2884



Assistive Technology & Speech Therapy

Orange Effect Foundation

- Provides grants for children with speech disorders to access consistent speech therapy and necessary communication equipment. The foundation awards grants quarterly, based on applications from both families and providers, particularly focusing on those in financial need.
- <https://theorangeeffect.org/grant-application/>
- Email: info@theorangeeffect.org



Small Steps in Speech (Ages 3-22)

- Provides grants to individuals between the age of 3 and 22 to support their speech therapy and related communication services. Grants, averaging \$1,000, can also be used for future services like assistive technology devices or communication aids.
- <https://www.smallstepsinspeech.org/faqs>
- Email: info@smallstepsinspeech.org
- Phone: 877-622-2884



Home Safety Modifications

Home Modification Loan Program

- This is a state-funded lending program that provides no-interest loans to homeowners to fund necessary changes to keep themselves or a family member with a disability or mobility impairment living comfortably in their own home. Loans can range from \$1,000 to \$50,000 are based on medical need and income eligibility.
- <https://www.rcapsolutions.org/HMLP/>
- Email: homemodloan@rcapsolutions.org
- Phone: (978) 630-6725



Edwin Phillips Foundation (Ages up to and including 21)

- The Foundation's overall purpose is to provide financial assistance to families who have children with physical, health or developmental challenges. The primary, but not exclusive, focus of the Foundation is to enable such children to live in their homes. ****This aid is available for families residing in Plymouth County, MA.**
- <https://www.edwinphillipsfoundation.org/>
- Email: edwinphillipstrust1@gmail.com

