



## 2019 Request for Applications (RFA)

### Introduction

The Autism Speaks Canada Family Services Community Grants (FSCG) program, presented by Toys “R” Us and Babies “R” Us, proudly provides funding for autism focused service providers across Canada. The purpose of these grants is to support service providers to build their capacity to support individuals and families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Grants are chosen through a review process, including a community panel of individuals with ASD, family members, friends, service providers and research experts across Canada.

Since 2010, \$4 million has been granted to over 280 organizations across Canada to increase their capacity through the creation, expansion and development of programs to support individuals and families impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The FSCG program is committed to enhancing services to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families by acting locally and thinking nationally. Based on the current needs, the FSCG program;

- drives collaboration,
- fosters innovation,
- promotes replication,
- establishes open sharing of resources, learnings and practices.

To this end, Autism Speaks Canada will focus on two key streams of funding. Both streams will be collaborative in nature, where a minimum of two (2) organizations must jointly submit for a grant:

- i. Innovation Grants
- ii. Replication Grants

### Innovation Grants

The intention of innovation grants are to promote cooperation and partnership to enhance innovative service delivery approaches. The maximum award for each grant is \$40,000. Each grant will be awarded to a project involving two or more organizations. All partner organizations must show an active role and responsibility in program creation, implementation and evaluation.

### Eligibility

A minimum of two (2) organizations must jointly submit for an innovation grant. One organization must be identified as the lead. This lead organization must have charitable status within Canada. Partnering organizations can include service providers, researchers, educational institutions, ministries and municipalities, professionals, healthcare institutions and corporations

### Area of focus

Innovation grants will be awarded to proposals that address new and unique service delivery solutions to support the needs of individuals with ASD across Canada. Funds are provided to support programs to deliver service, build evaluation surrounding the program and demonstrate impact in the community.

Projects must focus on capacity building to establish promising practices and build evidenced-based service delivery. Funded projects will inform service delivery methods for other communities across the country.

### **Replication Grants**

The intention of replication grants is to increase the availability of evidence-based programs for individuals with ASD across Canada. The maximum award for each grant is \$40,000. Each grant will be awarded to a project involving two or more organizations. All partner organizations must show an active role and responsibility in program creation, implementation and evaluation.

#### Eligibility

A minimum of two (2) organizations must jointly submit for an innovation grant. One organization must be identified as the lead. This lead organization must have charitable status within Canada. Partnering organizations can include service providers, researchers, educational institutions, ministries and municipalities, professionals, healthcare institutions and corporations

#### Area of focus

Replication grants will be awarded to proposals that address the expansion of evidence-based services. This includes site expansion to a new geographical community or population, program adoption from another service agency, and hub & spoke model. Funds are provided to support programs to deliver service, build evaluation surrounding the program and demonstrate impact in the community. Projects must focus on capacity building to establish promising practices and build evidenced-based service delivery. Funded projects will inform service delivery methods for other communities across the country.

### **Key Areas**

To promote services to underserved communities, special consideration will be given to programs which are developed that intentionally support any of the following 10 key areas:

*Note: the 10 key areas are not mandatory to be eligible for the Family Services Community Grants, however, special consideration will be provided for applications which have developed programs accessible for any of these areas.*

#### Aging and Autism

- Program delivery targeted to support senior citizens with ASD.

#### Cultural and Language

- Programs focused on addressing challenges related to cultural and linguistic diversity.

#### Dual Diagnosis

- Autism plus another health-related issue (mental health, obesity, epilepsy, ADHD, etc.)

#### Housing

- Addressing housing solutions to support independence and enhance quality of life

#### Indigenous Communities

- Inclusion and addressing of needs specific to, and collaborating with, Indigenous peoples including First Nations, Aboriginal, Inuit, Métis, Non-Status and Native communities both on and off-reserve.
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#### Innovative Use of Technology

- Implementation of technology for innovative program delivery methods (e.g.: screening, intervention, networking, virtual reality, etc.)

#### Rural and Remote Communities

- Focus on capacity building in rural and remote communities.

#### Self-Advocate Leadership

- Inclusion of individuals with lived experience in program development and support in leadership roles.

#### Sexual & Gender Diversification

- Equitable gender involvement, inclusion of individuals with diversities of sex characteristics, orientations and gender identities, programs addressing sexual and gender diversification.

#### Social Inclusion

- Inclusion of individuals with ASD in broader community and engagement of non-ASD community.

### **Family Services Community Grants Advisory Committee**

We invite individuals with personal, academic and professional experience in the ten focus areas to join our Family Services Community Grants Advisory Committee. Reviews occur over the summer and are completed through our online system. Each application takes approximately 30-45 minutes to review. Reviewers include individuals with autism spectrum disorder, family members, friends, community members and service professionals. This is a great opportunity for Autism Speaks Canada volunteers to share their expertise and knowledge at a national level. If you require printed paper versions, we can courier a package to you.

### **Additional Information for Consideration:**

- Funds can be applied to support new projects or the replication of an existing curriculum or program model.
- Autism Speaks Canada places a significant focus on the end product or deliverables of each proposal that will benefit the autism community beyond those participating in the program. Deliverables include case studies, videos, manuals and curricula that will be shared on the Autism Speaks Canada website for the broader community. Deliverables must capture information needed for dissemination, replication, and expansion.
- All information relevant to an application must be included in the proposal form. Additional information (e.g. annual reports, letters of support) will not be considered as part of the evaluation process.
- All grants are for a one year term. Multi-year grants will not be awarded.
- Autism Speaks Canada Family Services Community Grants **do not fund scientific research projects**. For information regarding scientific funding please contact Autism Speaks Canada directly at [autismspeakscanada@autismspeakscan.ca](mailto:autismspeakscanada@autismspeakscan.ca).
- An organization can submit a maximum of five (5) applications in total, whether identified as a lead or partner organization.

## RESTRICTIONS

### ***Family Services Community Grants cannot be used for:***

- General operating costs of established organizations and agencies
- Supportive Technology – e.g. iPads, iPods, Smart Boards, etc.
- Snoezelen Rooms
- Scholarships to participants for tuition costs
- Tuition or registration fees to offset attendance costs for participants
- Individual or family participation in personal programs
- Conference attendance for staff members
- Food or refreshments for activities and events related to the program
- Salaries of administrative staff or contract persons not directly providing service to individuals with autism spectrum disorder
- Salaries of existing staff members, unless they will be working extra hours in order to provide direct services for the program being funded
- Endowment or debt reduction
- Fundraising activities
- Projects that will result in profit for the organization
- Advocacy initiatives

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS**

The Family Services Community Grants program uses a new online application system. Organizations can apply by going to our [online application system](#). The organization registering an account will be listed as the lead organization for the submitted proposal. Lead organizations must have a registered charitable number. The contact person for the application does not have to be associated with the lead organization. Once an organizational account has been made, you will be directed to apply for either an innovation or replication grant.

All interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent Form by June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to be considered for the Grant Proposal. If you are having difficulty with the online application process, please contact [fscgrants@autismspeakscan.ca](mailto:fscgrants@autismspeakscan.ca).

Upon review of your Letter of Intent, you will be notified of the status of your application. This notification will indicate whether or not you should proceed with completing the full application. If invited to complete a full proposal, the deadline for applications is July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Decisions on grant awards and notifications will be made in December 2019.

**IF YOUR LETTER OF INTENT IS NOT ACCEPTED,  
YOU SHOULD NOT CONTINUE THE APPLICATION PROCESS.**