

Community Grants



A program spanning more than a decade. Community Grants focus on expanding the capacity of service providers to respond to current needs and service gaps in the autism community.

Since 2010, the Autism Speaks Canada Community Grants program has awarded over \$4.8 million to 198 projects across the country. Grants are awarded to service organizations in an effort to increase services and supports for autistic individuals and their families within their community. **In 2021, Autism Speaks Canada funded \$382,352 to 14 diverse projects across the country.**

Adapting to current needs:



In 2021, the program has been structured to focus on improving the mental health of autistic Canadians and their caregivers. Our recent Pandemic Canadian Autism Needs Assessment survey highlighted the adverse effects of the pandemic on autistic Canadians' mental health and well being.



Research Insight 1:

Mental health concerns and lack of social engagement were amongst the most challenging experiences to navigate for autistic adults, children and their families.

65% of self-advocates reported the pandemic had negatively affected their emotional/mental health.

64% of caregivers reported negative impacts on their child(ren's) mental health.

37% of self-advocates reported social engagement as a challenging or very challenging area to deal with.

44% of caregivers reported social engagement as a challenging area to support.



Insight 2:

Recreation and mental health supports were identified as among the most helpful to receive.

Recreation supports were requested by 30% of self-advocates and 54% of caregivers.

Mental health supports were requested by 21% of self-advocates and 39% of caregivers.

Outcome: social engagement and mental health initiatives

Based on these important insights, the 2021 Community Grants program aimed to expand the capacity of service providers and respond to current needs and service gaps through a focus on funding social engagement and mental health initiatives.

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Our 2021 Impact

Total Granted:
\$382,352

Programs Supported:
14 programs across Canada



Type of Project:

	Number of Projects	Amount Granted
Physical Activity	3	\$104,758
Recreation	3	\$96,848
Adolescent / Young Adult	2	\$51,850
Adult Support	4	\$86,937
Child Intervention	2	\$41,959
TOTAL =		\$382,352

Grants Provided Year-over-Year:



Communities Supported:

10 projects

supported underserved communities including Indigenous people, 2SLGBTQ+, rural/remote communities, and inclusion of lived experience with grants totalling **\$300,393**.

4 projects

supported other autism communities across Canada for **\$81,959**.

National Representation:

	Number of Projects	Amount Granted
Yukon Territory	1	\$23,040
British Columbia	3	\$85,658
Alberta	4	\$124,959
Saskatchewan	1	\$39,758
Ontario	4	\$91,277
New Brunswick	1	\$17,660
TOTAL =		\$382,352