



Guidelines for Project Funding

The Ann Arbor Autism Foundation is interested in supporting new and innovative program opportunities for individuals with autism. The Foundation values community-based collaborations, inclusive programming and projects that include parents as advisors, supporters or volunteers.

Ann Arbor Autism Foundation Project Funding Criteria & Procedures:

1. The project must benefit individuals or families living in Washtenaw County who are affected by an autism spectrum disorder (autism, PDD-NOS, Asperger's, etc.).
2. A completed grant application with supporting documents must be submitted by one of the 4 grant review deadlines: February 1, May 1, August 1, or November 1.
3. Priority will be given to tax exempt organizations.
4. Priority will be given to collaborative programs between two or more agencies.
5. Priority will be given to community-based projects that are innovative and inclusive and strive to benefit the greatest number of individuals.
6. Priority will be given to applicants that have not received funds from this Foundation within the previous twelve months.
7. Priority will be given to those organizations who demonstrate sustainability beyond expiration of the Foundation's funding.
8. Periodic reports must be submitted to the Foundation to document progress in the funded project.
9. In general, project funding will not exceed \$2500 in a funding cycle.
10. The committee which awards project grants is an independent group of people who cannot benefit in any way from the funded projects.

Ann Arbor Autism Foundation Internal Project Funding Procedures:

The following are the procedures of the Ann Arbor Autism Foundation ("Foundation") in the awarding of grant funding to organizations:

Grants Committee

The grants committee is made up of various volunteer community leaders, including individuals who are not employees or board members of the Foundation. Employees and board members of the Foundation are NOT eligible for grants. Members of the grants committee will not derive any private benefit, directly or indirectly, from the selection of applicants for project funding.

Selection Process for Project Funding

Applicants will be solicited through various organizations with the use of flyers and ads in local newspapers and publications. Selection of projects to fund is made on the basis of criteria related to the mission of the Foundation, and its priority in relation to other demands on Foundation funds. Grants are provided without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex or marital status of the individuals and/or organization submitting the application. The grants committee screens all project applications to determine financial need.

Award recipients will be selected per simple majority of the Committee. The Foundation Board of Directors provides a quarterly budget to the Committee from which both scholarship and grant awards are made.

Procedure for Exercising Supervision over Project Funding

Grant recipients are expected to fulfill their obligation to the Foundation to fund only the project for which the grant was specifically intended. The Foundation must receive periodic progress reports indicating the applicant's ongoing participation in the funded project. If the Foundation determines that any part of a grant has been used for improper purposes, the Foundation will take all reasonable and appropriate steps to recover diverted grant funds or to insure the restoration of diverted funds. These steps will include legal action if necessary.

Application Checklist:

- Completed application form (all sections, 1 page)
- Supporting materials:
 - ___ Organization Board of Directors
 - ___ Non-profit tax ID number and IRS letter of determination, if applicable
 - ___ Statement of organization mission, annual report, etc.

Questions should be addressed to the Foundation Grants Committee at:

awards@annarborautism.org