

STEP 1: ABOUT YOU

- Name of Organization:
- Website:
- Year founded:
- Mission Statement: (75-word limit)
- In order to qualify for grant funding your organization must have 501c3 status or have a fiscal sponsor. Please indicate which describes your organization:
 - 501c3
 - Tax ID #
 - Fiscally Sponsored
 - Name of fiscal sponsor
- Upload your 501c3 OR fiscal sponsor documentation

Contact Information

- Main Office Address:
- City:
- State:
- Zip code:
- Grant Contact Name:
- Grant Contact Title:
- Grant Contact Email Address:
- Grant Contact Phone Number:

- Approximately how many individuals are in each of the following roles:
 - Paid full-time employees:
 - Paid part-time employees:
 - Volunteers (unpaid):

- How many individuals does your organization serve annually? (Number should include those with and without autism.):

- What percentage of the people served by your organization annually are autistic?
 - Less than 15%
 - 15-25%
 - 25-50%
 - 50-75%
 - Greater than 75%

Budget Details

- What was your TOTAL organizational budget for last fiscal year?
(Please note this question is asking for revenue and expenses for your entire organization.)
 - Revenue - \$
 - Expenses - \$
- What percentage of your total revenue comes from the following sources?
(Use your best estimate.)
 - Government
 - Philanthropy
 - Earned income
 - Individual donations
 - Corporate sponsorship
 - Other
- Link to your most recent 990: (If applicable)
- Have you ever received funding from NEXT for AUTISM?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you have a NEXT for AUTISM grant that is currently active? (Granted in 2025.)
 - Yes
 - No

State of Services

Last year, more than 500 organizations applied for funding through NEXT for AUTISM, providing a powerful snapshot of the national landscape of adult autism services; the insights gathered through that process informed our State of Services report, and this year's data will help us build a deeper, more comprehensive picture of emerging needs, trends, and opportunities across the field.

- Which best describes your organization? (Single Select)
 - Large service provider / legacy nonprofit organization
 - Healthcare system, hospital, or clinical provider
 - College, university, or academic institution
 - High school or educational provider
 - Residential provider or housing organization
 - Community-based nonprofit program
 - Workforce development or job trainer
 - Social enterprise
 - Advocacy or policy organization
 - Grassroots organization
 - Other (please specify)

- How would you describe access to in-person services in your region?
 - Adequate and stable
 - Growing but fragile
 - Limited and strained
 - Crisis level

- In the past 12 months, where has your organization experienced growth? (Select all that apply)
 - Increased demand for services
 - Expanded geographic reach
 - Growth in earned revenue
 - New partnerships or collaborations
 - Increased autistic leadership
 - Stronger community engagement
 - Improved data/technology systems
 - We have not experienced growth

- Has your organization experienced any of the following in the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)
 - Reduction in government funding
 - Reduction in private/philanthropic funding
 - Loss of corporate sponsorship
 - Delayed reimbursements (e.g., Medicaid)
 - Staff layoffs or hiring freezes
 - Program waitlist growth
 - No major impact

- How many individuals are currently on your waitlist? (if applicable)

- What is the average wait time for services?

- What are the biggest barriers to expanding services in your community? (Choose your top 3)
 - Funding limitations
 - Workforce shortages
 - Policy barriers
 - Lack of cross-system collaboration
 - Lack of diagnosis access
 - Transportation
 - Housing availability
 - Technology/data systems
 - Other (please specify)

- What is one trend or unmet need in adult autism services that funders should be paying closer attention to? (100-word limit)

If workforce shortages is chosen above, applicant will see this line of questioning.

- What are the biggest staffing challenges your organization faces? (50 words)
- Approximately how many staff positions are currently unfilled?
- Which roles are hardest to recruit for?
 - Direct Support Professionals
 - Clinicians
 - Job coaches
 - Peer mentors
 - Case managers
 - Other (please specify)
- Staff turnover in the last year was approximately:
 - <10%
 - 10–25%
 - 25–50%
 - More than 50%

Step 2: CURRENT GRANT UPDATES

(only for applicants who were funded in 2025.)

- Please identify which best describes your NEW grant application
 - Related and building off our current project
 - A new project unrelated to the one currently being funded.

We would like to hear about the progress of your current grant project. NEXT recognizes that grant projects don't always go according to plan, and we value transparency in these updates.

- A brief overview of the current status of your project. (200-word limit)
- Any key milestones you've reached so far. (200-word limit)
- Details of any unexpected obstacles you've encountered and the strategies you are using to manage them. (200-word limit)

Step 3: PROJECT DETAILS

- Please provide the name of the program for which you are seeking funding.
- Describe the project in one sentence.
- Using plain language, please provide an overview of your project. (200-word limit)
- Optional Video: In two minutes or less, describe your project, the need it addresses, and what makes your approach effective. Please record this casually on your phone. Do not include production, editing, graphics, or special equipment. We prefer simple, unproduced videos. A straightforward, horizontal phone recording is ideal. Videos may be featured in NEXT for AUTISM materials to help illustrate the national landscape of adult autism services.
- How are autistic adults being integrated into the planning and execution of this project: (select all that apply)
 - Autistic adults are served as direct participants or beneficiaries.
 - Autistic adults inform program development via surveys, listening sessions, research or focus groups.
 - Autistic adults serve in external advisory or co-design roles that influence program decisions.
 - Autistic adults hold leadership roles with authority over project design, development and execution.
 - The organization has an autistic founder and or executive leadership
- Please elaborate on the inclusion of autistic adults in this project. Be sure to include: (100-word limit)
 - Whether their participation on boards or as advisors is paid or unpaid.
 - How autistic individuals hold decision-making authority or independently lead aspects of the project.
 - Approximately how many autistic individuals are involved and at what stages (planning, implementation, evaluation).
- Grant categories (choose 1)
 - Home
 - Work
 - Social
 - Health

- Please further describe the type of project
 - *If home is chosen*
 - Housing Development & Access
 - Life Skills & Independent Living Skills
 - Family & Caregiver Support
 - Respite Services
 - DSP & In-Home Support Services
 - Transportation & Community Navigation
 - Household Skills (Cooking, Cleaning, Budgeting)
 - Assistive Technology & Smart Home Supports
 - Sensory-Friendly Home Environments
 - Nutrition & Healthy Living
 - *If work is chosen*
 - Vocational Training & Job Readiness
 - Supported Employment & Job Coaching
 - Employer Partnerships & Neuroinclusive Hiring
 - College & Postsecondary Transition Programs
 - Career Mentorship & Professional Development
 - Entrepreneurship & Microenterprises
 - Social Enterprises & Business Ventures
 - Technology & Digital Skills for Work
 - Internships & Work-Based Learning
 - Volunteer Pathways to Employment
 - Workplace Systems Change
 - Sensory-Spaces
 - Mental Health Services
 - Arts (Art, Music, Theater)
 - *If Social is chosen*
 - Social Skills & Relationship Programs
 - Meetups & Community Social Groups
 - Sports & Recreation
 - Arts (Art, Music, Theater)
 - Outdoor & Nature Activities
 - Camps & Structured Recreation Programs
 - Museums & Cultural Programs
 - Interest Clubs (Technology, Gaming, Makerspaces)
 - Animal-Assisted Therapy (Therapy Dogs, Equine Therapy)
 - Sensory-Spaces
 - *If Health is chosen*
 - Mental Health Services
 - Medical Care & Care Coordination
 - Training for medical professionals
 - Physical Health & Fitness
 - Speech & Communication Therapy
 - Behavioral Supports
 - Animal-Assisted Therapy (Therapy Dogs, Equine Therapy)
 - Nutrition & Healthy Living
 - Neuroinclusive Health Systems
 - Sensory-Spaces

- Work, Home, Social, and Health & Wellbeing are interconnected systems that support an autonomous life. While your project has a primary focus, please describe how it also influences or supports outcomes in the other areas. (100 words)

Milestones and Impact

- List the milestone, goal(s) and intended outcomes of the proposed program/project. Be as specific as possible and include numbers. [Sample available online here.](#) (200-word limit)
- If your project has data demonstrating its effectiveness, please describe it here. If the project is a new or pilot initiative that has not yet generated outcome data, please describe the evidence, model, or rationale informing the approach (200 word limit)
- Number of adults with autism you anticipate serving through this project.
- Of those being served by the project estimate what % fall into the following underserved categories. If you do not track this, please put “no data”
 - BIPOC
 - LGBTQIA
 - Women
 - At or below the poverty line
 - Non-speaking
 - Profound
 - Other (define)
- Will this project produce free resources or webinars that NEXT can promote to our broader network?
 - Yes
 - No
- How does your organization plan to share what you learn through this project with other service providers or organizations doing similar work? Please describe how you intend to contribute to the broader field. (100-word limit)

Budget

- Grant Amount Request:
- Upload a grant budget noting how these monies will be utilized from December 1, 2026 – to November 30, 2027. [Sample budget.](#)
- How do you plan on sustaining your program after grant monies are spent? (single select)
 - Continue to fundraise
 - The program will generate enough revenue to cover expenses within the next 1-3 year
 - Other (fill in the blank)
- Please provide additional details about your programmatic budget, including if your project requires funding from other sources to succeed and if that funding been secured. (200 words)