



2026/27 Grants Cycle Webinar, April 15, 2026 Follow-Up Q&A

We encourage you to reference our FAQ page here - <https://nextforautism.org/faqs-grants/>

Our organization recently changed its name, but our IRS paperwork has not been updated yet. Can we still apply?

Yes. You may still apply using your current documentation. Please note the name change in your application and include a DBA note if applicable. Once your updated official paperwork is available, you can send it to us.

Can organizations that serve the broader public apply if the proposed project specifically supports autistic people?

Yes. Projects that are specifically designed to increase inclusion and support for autistic people are eligible, even if the organization serves a broader population.

Can an organization submit more than one idea or more than one application in a grant cycle? Organizations may submit one application per grant cycle. If you have multiple ideas, we recommend selecting the one that best aligns with your goals and presenting it within a single application.

Can grant funds be used to provide scholarships or reduce the cost of participation?

Yes. Grant funding may support free or reduced-cost programming that improves access for the community you serve.

Would a creative program, such as a podcast, media, or arts-based training program, be considered an ineligible production?

Not necessarily. If the media or creative work is an essential part of a program that supports autistic adults, such as workforce development, training, or skill-building, it may be eligible.

If several organizations apply with similar project models or in the same discipline, does NEXT only fund one of them?

While NEXT aims to support a broad range of projects, we do not limit funding to one organization per discipline and may fund more than one strong proposal in a similar area.

We applied in a previous cycle and were not funded. Can we apply again?

Yes. Organizations that were not funded in a previous cycle are welcome to apply again. Previously funded organizations are also encouraged to apply!

Are musical instruments or similar items considered capital costs?

Items such as instruments that are directly used in programming would generally be considered program supplies.

My project overlaps multiple categories, such as education and workforce development. Which category should I choose?

Please select the category that best reflects the primary purpose of your project. The application also includes space to explain how your project may impact other areas or systems.

How can we tell whether our work aligns with NEXT's funding priorities?

NEXT funds programs that support autistic adults in one or more of the following areas: work, home, social, and health. If your project falls within one of these focus areas and you are a nonprofit or fiscally sponsored, it may be a strong fit.

Do programs that support parents, caregivers, or families of autistic adults qualify?

Yes. Programs such as trainings or support groups for parents and caregivers of autistic adults may qualify when they ultimately support autistic adults and their communities.

Can an LLC apply for funding?

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or have a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsorship is when a nonprofit extends its legal and tax-exempt status to a project that aligns with its mission. <https://fiscalsponsordirectory.org/>

Can this funding support projects related to safety, adaptive technology, transportation, or emergency response?

Potentially, yes. Projects that support the health, safety, and well-being of autistic adults may be eligible.

Are organizations that exclusively serve autistic individuals more likely to receive funding?

No. This is not part of the grant scoring. Organizations may still be competitive if they serve autistic adults as part of a broader population.

Do budget requests need to be tied to specific line items?

Yes. Applicants are required to submit a project budget with line items.

Are requests for supplies or equipment competitive?

Yes, when those supplies or equipment are clearly tied to the delivery of innovative and effective programming.

Can government-affiliated or public service programs apply, such as EMS or police-related programs?

The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If the program is housed within or partnered with an eligible nonprofit, it may be able to apply.

Do you fund individuals directly, such as for private school tuition or personal expenses?

No. Grants are awarded to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations serving the autism community, not to individuals. <https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-grants-families>

Would a training video or updated educational resource qualify for funding?

Yes, if it is part of a training or educational program rather than an entertainment production.

Where can I find information about past grant award totals?

Please refer to NEXt's press release from the previous grant cycle for information about prior award amounts. [CLICK HERE](#)

Can staff whose roles are usually considered indirect costs be included as direct project expenses?

Some roles may still be considered indirect costs, even if they support project implementation. If you have a specific budget question, we encourage you to contact grants@nextforautism.org for guidance.

What is an EIN?

An EIN is a federal tax identification number used by businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other entities.

What time zone are application deadlines listed in?

All deadlines are listed in Eastern Time (EST).

Can nonprofit workforce development programs apply?

Yes. Workforce development programs may be eligible under the work category, provided the applicant is an eligible nonprofit organization.

Do you prioritize autistic-led workforce development initiatives?

NEXT does prioritize and earmark funds specifically for autistic-led projects.

Do you ever award less funding than an organization requests?

Applicants should request the amount needed to carry out the project. In some cases, NEXT may discuss a partial award with an organization, but that is not typically the standard approach.

Can organizations apply if they serve autistic adults as part of a broader patient or participant population?

Yes.

Is there a minimum percentage of autistic adults an organization must serve to be competitive?

No. There is no minimum percentage requirement.

For a new organization or pilot program, can supporting autism-specific data come from a related clinical practice or founder experience?

Yes. If the data comes from a related source, please explain the rationale clearly in the application.

What budget period should applicants use?

Applicants should use the grant period specified in the application materials. For this cycle, that is December 2026 through November 2027.