



autism speaks®

Volunteer Grant Reviewer Tutorial

May 18, 2022

Presented by: Marianne Sullivan, R.N., M.N. and Amethyst Johnson-Creque



What we will cover today!

- Welcome and Introductions
- Mission & Mission Objectives
- Resources
- Volunteer Grant Reviewers
- Q&A
- Poll Survey
- Program Ends

Marianne Sullivan & Amethyst Johnson-Creque

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Marianne Sullivan

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Amethyst Johnson-Creque & Marianne Sullivan

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Our vision

A world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.

Our mission

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, **across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.** We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.

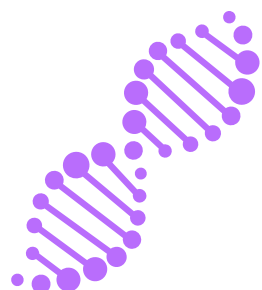


Our mission objectives

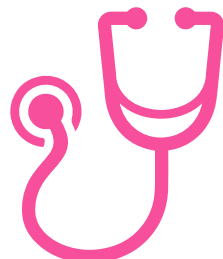
Autism Speaks is enhancing lives today and accelerating a spectrum of solutions for tomorrow.



Increasing global **understanding and acceptance** of people with autism



Being a catalyst for life-enhancing **research breakthroughs**



Increasing early childhood **screening and timely interventions**



Improving the **transition to adulthood**



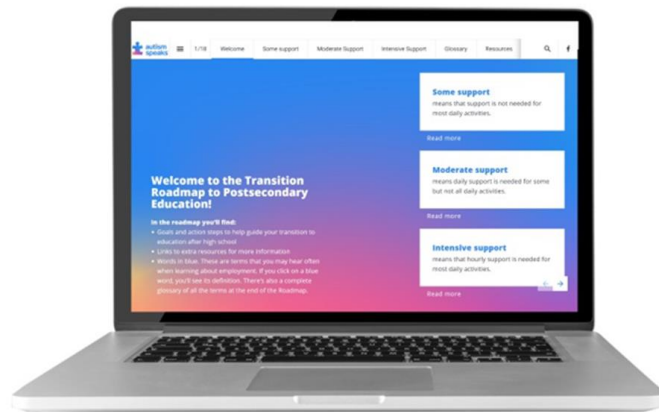
Ensuring access to **reliable information and services** throughout the life span



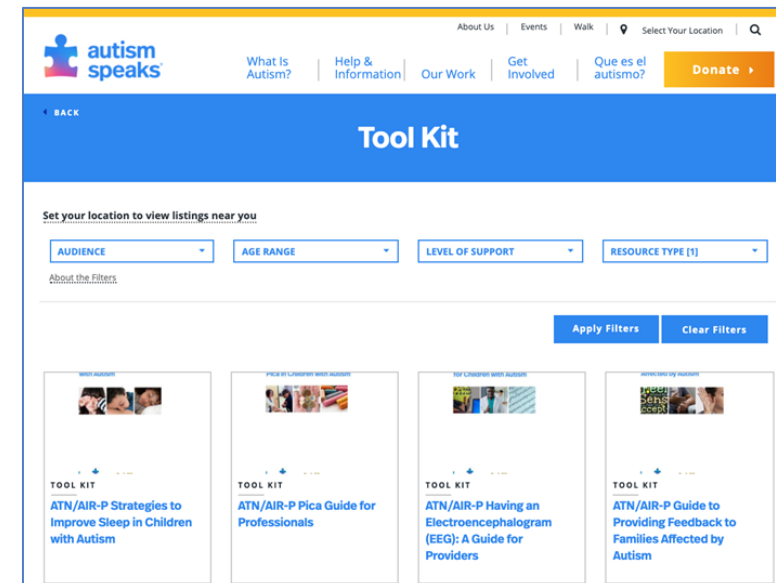
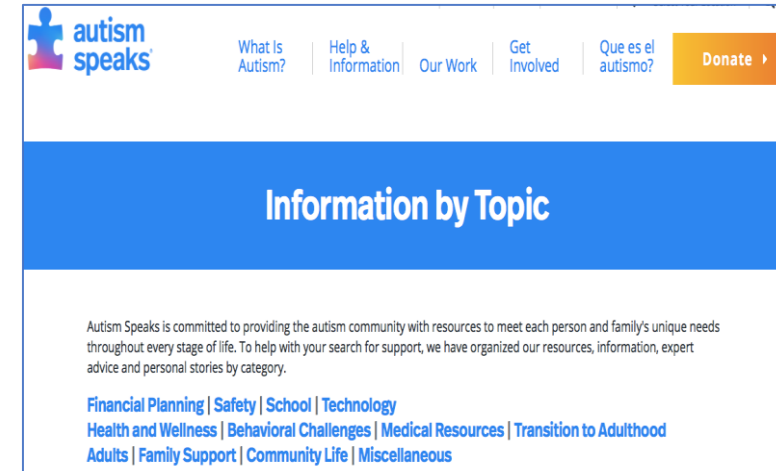
Guidance at every stage

With our mission in mind, today we want to highlight:

- Autism Response Teams can support you
- Find information and resources topic-by-topic
- Connect virtually and in-person events



The right information makes a difference at every step in any journey. Our website offers resources for any life stage you are navigating or want to learn more about.



The Autism Response Team (ART) is an information line for the autism community

Our team members are specially trained to provide personalized information and resources to people with autism and their families.

ART has provided more than 460,000 people with direct assistance by email, phone and chat, including requests from individuals with autism and their families, as well as caregivers, teachers, professionals and community members.

The Autism Response Team can help you learn more about:

- Where to get a diagnosis
 - Schools and special education
 - Advocacy and support
 - Adult services - including post-secondary programs and employment
 - Inclusion and community activities
- and much more!



How to contact the Autism Response Team

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in all time zones

By phone: Your call will be routed to the team member for your region. We also have a dedicated Spanish language toll-free number.

1-888-AUTISM2 (1-888-288-4762)

En español: 1-888-772-9050

By email: Reach us at help@autismspeaks.org

Monday through Friday

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET

By live chat: Connect at autismspeaks.org





My Autism Guide

Resource
Guide

Provider
Directory

The screenshot shows the homepage of the My Autism Guide website. The main heading reads "Welcome to My Autism Guide from Autism Speaks". Below this, a sub-heading says "Let us help you access relevant autism content, specific to your age, location and level of need." There is a prominent orange button labeled "Create an account" and a link for "Already have an account? Login Here". A circular icon with four smaller icons (document, magnifying glass, person, and location pin) is positioned to the left of a section titled "Access personalized content and information:". This section lists four benefits: finding resources specific to individual age and support needs, seeing proactive information for future planning, looking for virtual events or events in the community, and seeing listings of service providers in the area. On the right side of the screenshot, there is a preview of the user dashboard, which includes a "Based On Your Interests" section with news articles, an "Events" section with a list of upcoming events, and a "Local Event" pop-up for a discussion at the Nassau County Museum of Art.

Welcome to My Autism Guide from Autism Speaks

Let us help you access relevant autism content, specific to your age, location and level of need.

[Create an account](#)

Already have an account? [Login Here](#)

Access personalized content and information:

- Find resources specific to individual age, and support needs
- See proactive information to help in planning for future activities
- Look for virtual events or events in your community
- See listings of service providers in your area



Local Impact Grants Overview



Local Impact Grants

Autism Speaks supports community programs that provide people with autism with fulfilling social and educational experiences through our Local Impact Grant.

Since 2013, Autism Speaks has awarded over **\$3 million** in local impact grants to **more than 500 organizations** across the country serving tens of thousands of autistic people, their caregivers and families, teachers, therapists, and peers.

The Autism Speaks Local Impact Grant program provides **awards of up to \$5,000** to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations that have been in operation for a minimum of one year.



The focus of the grant is to:

- Promote local services that enhance the lives of those affected by autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Expand the capacity of local organizations to effectively serve the autism community
- Increase the number of national service providers offering services to people with ASD



What we fund

We provide funding to support programs at existing nonprofit organizations in the following categories:

- Education and training
- Recreation/community activities
- Summer camp scholarships
- Sensory equipment/supportive technology
- Young adult/adult services

The Review Process



How to log in



Logon Page

Email Address*

Password*

[Forgot your Password?](#)

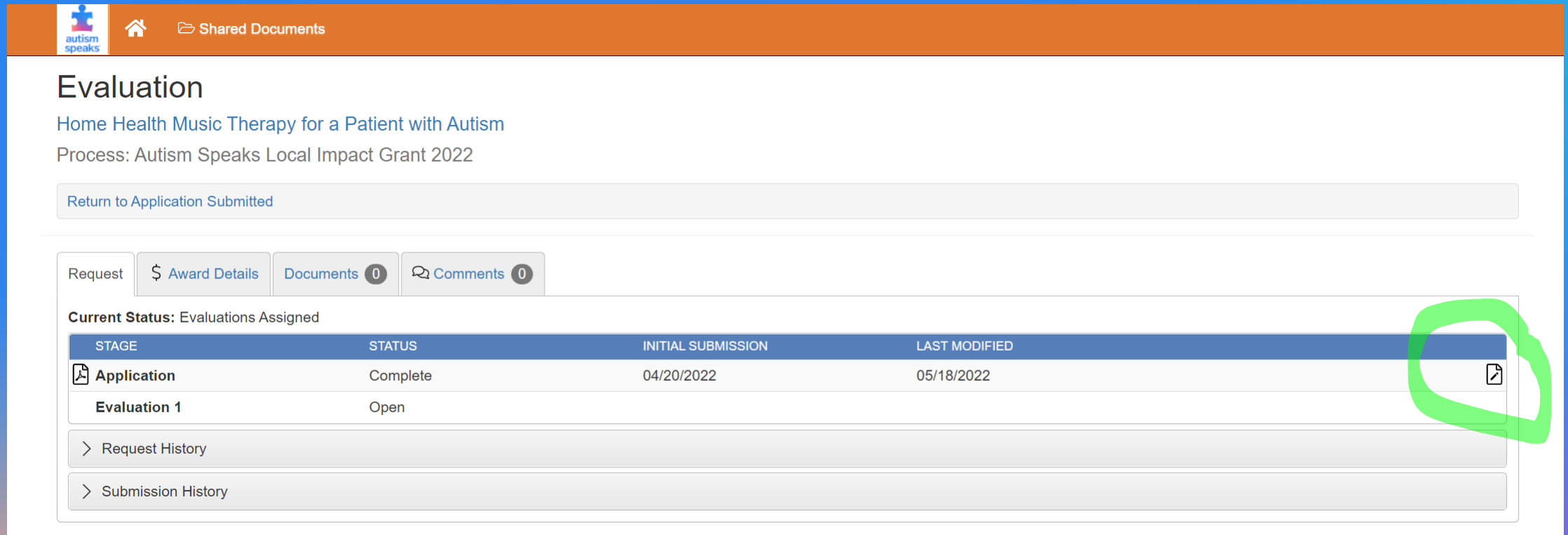
Homepage

The screenshot shows the Autism Speaks dashboard homepage. At the top, there is an orange navigation bar with the Autism Speaks logo, a home icon, and a 'Shared Documents' link. Below this is a white header area with the word 'Dashboard' on the left and a 'Process 1' button with a red 'X' on the right. The main content area features a 'Your Evaluations 1' tab. Below the tab is a red bar indicating 'Pending' status with a '1' in a white box. A search bar labeled 'Quick Search' is positioned below the red bar. The main part of the dashboard is a table with the following columns: FORM, PROCESS, ORGANIZATION, APPLICANT FIRST NAME, APPLICANT LAST NAME, PROJECT, and SCORE. The table contains one row of data. At the bottom of the table, there are navigation buttons for 'Previous', '1', and 'Next', and a pagination indicator 'Showing 1 - 1 of 1' with a dropdown menu set to '50'.

FORM	PROCESS	ORGANIZATION	APPLICANT FIRST NAME	APPLICANT LAST NAME	PROJECT	SCORE
Winter Grant Cycle 2020 Review	Autism Speaks Local Impact Grant 2022	[HIDDEN]	[HIDDEN]	[HIDDEN]	Home Health Music Therapy for a Patient with Autism	Start

- You will see all the applications that have been assigned to you on this dashboard (your homepage)
- Click on the **Start** button to review the application and access your evaluation form

How to access the application




The screenshot shows the 'Evaluation' section of the Autism Speaks application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'autism speaks' logo, a home icon, and a 'Shared Documents' folder icon. Below the navigation bar, the title 'Evaluation' is displayed, followed by the subtitle 'Home Health Music Therapy for a Patient with Autism' and the process name 'Process: Autism Speaks Local Impact Grant 2022'. A button labeled 'Return to Application Submitted' is located below the subtitle. The main content area features a tabbed interface with 'Request' selected, and other tabs for '\$ Award Details', 'Documents 0', and 'Comments 0'. Under the 'Request' tab, the 'Current Status' is 'Evaluations Assigned'. A table with four columns: 'STAGE', 'STATUS', 'INITIAL SUBMISSION', and 'LAST MODIFIED' is shown. The first row is 'Application' with status 'Complete', initial submission '04/20/2022', and last modified '05/18/2022'. The second row is 'Evaluation 1' with status 'Open'. A green circle highlights a document icon in the rightmost column of the first row. Below the table, there are two expandable sections: 'Request History' and 'Submission History'.

Return to Application Submitted

Request \$ Award Details Documents 0 Comments 0

Current Status: Evaluations Assigned

STAGE	STATUS	INITIAL SUBMISSION	LAST MODIFIED
 Application	Complete	04/20/2022	05/18/2022
Evaluation 1	Open		

> Request History

> Submission History

- To view the application, click on the picture of the page and pen

Evaluation Form

Program Outcomes

Application question: Abstract*

Do you believe the objectives and outcomes for the program are clear and measurable? Please take into consideration whether an applicant has clearly identified in the abstract what they want to accomplish with this grant funding and how the award will help them to achieve these goals.

1 2 3 4 5

Comments*

Please explain your ranking. Why did you choose the number from 1-5?

300 characters left of 300

Applicants were asked to answer these questions in their abstract

- Tell us about your program.
- What is the need or problem that your organization has identified in the autism community?
- How will your program address the need or problem described above?
- What is the expected outcome?

Impact

Impact on Services

Application question: Participant ages; target audience; numbers served; organization; etc.*

How well does the program increase or expand services to people with autism, service providers, and their families? Your response here should take into account the number of people who are impacted by the proposed program. Does the proposed use of grant funding help to expand the reach of the organization?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments*

Please explain your ranking. Why did you choose the number from 1-5?

300 characters left of 300

Impact: Data that estimates the extent to which the program actually caused particular outcomes (Hatry, 2006, page 24).

Budget

Budget

Application question: Provide a breakdown of the total \$5,000 or less budget.*

Overall, is the budget reasonable and would the costs associated with the program contribute to a successful outcome? A strong budget will clearly demonstrate how the funding is aligned with the proposed program. Here, it will be important to consider if the funding request is sufficient to realize the outcomes specified in the abstract, i.e. is the amount too small, too large? Does it list items that may be able to be donated in-kind?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments*

Please explain your ranking. Why did you choose the number from 1-5?

300 characters left of 300

Applicants were asked to illustrate the following:

Please tell us exactly how your program plans to spend this grant. We **WILL NOT** fund the following items:

- Endowment, debt reduction, or fundraising activities
- Salaries of employees that do not directly with the program for which you are requesting funding
- Food, apparel or equipment that can be donated
- Rent or financing of buildings

Overall Impression

Overall Grant Quality

Overall Impressions*
As a whole, how would you rate this grant?
Please give consideration to the quality and potential impact the program would have on the community. Does the proposal stand out to you?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments*
Please explain your ranking. Why did you choose the number from 1-5?

300 characters left of 300

Tell us your thoughts:

- Was the application easy to understand?
- Do you think that this program will be beneficial to the autism community?



What we need from you

Must:

- Be available between **May 23rd** and **June 17th** for a total of **four hours** max
- Have access to a working computer
- Have internet access
- Contact us if you cannot complete your assigned evaluations **before** the deadline





Demonstration

2022 Local Impact Grant Cycle and Timeline



- **April 15th:** Application opens
- **May 16th:** Application closes
- **May 23-June 17th:** Volunteer reviewers from across the country will review and score applications
- **June 27th - July 8th:** Review committees meet and make decisions on recommendations
- **July 11th- July 18th:** Our leadership team will be reviewing recommendations, and approving grants
- **July 25th:** All applicants notified, and announcements made on social media
- **Beginning August 15th:** Funds will be disbursed upon receipt of contracts
- **End of July 2023:** Final Report from recipients due to Autism Speaks

Reviewers Needed!

Interested...please complete the Reviewer application [HERE](#)



Connect with Us

To find the latest resources, information and activities in our community, join us on social media



@autismspeaks



@autismspeaks



linkedin.com/company/
autism-speaks



facebook.com/autismspeaks

Closed Facebook groups for individuals and families:

Navigating a New Autism Diagnosis

Voces Latinas de Autism Speaks for Spanish-speaking families

Transition to Adulthood: An Autism Speaks Community

Adulthood on the Spectrum: Networking for Autistic Adults

Employment WINS: An Autism Speaks Community



Questions and Answers





Thank you for volunteering your time!

Please email all reviewer inquiries to
Grants@autismspeaks.org

References

Hatry, H. P. (2006). *Performance Measurement: Getting Results. Second Edition*. The Urban Institute Press.

Kelly, J., Sadeghieh, T., & Adeli, K. (2014). Peer Review in Scientific Publications: Benefits, Critiques, & A Survival Guide. *EJIFCC*, 25(3), 227-243. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4975196/>