

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

supports individuals and families that require financial aid.



The Community Assistance Program

The fund aims to subsidize the cost of psychological assessments, physical and mental health therapies, and interventions not paid for by provincial health plans.

The fund will also subsidize the cost of respite care for individuals on the spectrum and/or their families and caregivers to reduce the current rise in demand on the mental healthcare system.

We are grateful to our donors, stakeholders and community for their generosity and support to help make this program possible.



Advocate • Educate • Support
Défendre • Éduquer • Appuyer

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

** All funds dispersed will be dispersed directly to the organization/service providers, not the individual. Funds are applied for by the therapist/professional on the clients behalf - talk to your therapist if you would like them to apply for you to receive this funding. **

Psychological Assessment Fund - up to \$2000.00

An autism diagnosis is usually based on the criteria described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), which is published by the American Psychiatric Association and used by most healthcare professionals. The psychological assessment performed by a psychologist recognizes the broad diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder. The official diagnosis obtained through the Psychological Assessment Fund will help individuals and caregivers of all ages obtain support and resources to navigate forward and plan for the future.

Early Intervention (i.e. speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy) - up to \$2000.00

Research shows that early diagnosis of and interventions for autism are more likely to have major long-term positive effects on characteristics and later skills. This fund exists to provide subsidized funding for professional interventions and therapies sorely needed but otherwise unattainable.

Camps - up to \$1000.00

Camps offer incredible learning and growth opportunities for children and youth on the Autism Spectrum and also provide much-needed respite for families and caregivers, but for many, camps can be out of reach financially.

Autism Canada's Kids to Camp Fund is available to help subsidize the cost of daily and weekly camps for children and youth on the Autism Spectrum. Through the generosity of our donors and partners, this fund enables and empowers a child or youth on the Autism Spectrum to:

- Build friendships and social skills*
- Foster independence*
- Develop resiliency and confidence*
- Create a sense of belonging*
- Instill positive and lasting memories*

The camp experience allows children to build a lifelong network of friends, colleagues, and role models. The bond shared with fellow campers and camp leaders often continues later in life and the shared experiences and memories are never forgotten.

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION



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Respite and Recreation - up to \$2000.00

A respite caregiver is a person who will take care of your loved one on the autism spectrum for a short period so that you can take a break and focus on your health or engage in activities that you may find relaxing, entertaining and restful. The respite care can be overnight to a few days a week. You can use respite services either occasionally or regularly and are available to all ages.

Post-Secondary Transition Supports Fund - up to \$2000.00

Students on the spectrum often find the transitions to post-secondary difficult. For most students, their priorities are to attend class on time and focus on their schoolwork. This alone can be exhausting for an autistic individual and requires time every day to decompress and self-regulate leaving little time to focus on the executive functions of daily life skills. A Personal Support Worker or equivalent professional can assist with tasks such as laundry, meal prep and housekeeping. This fund will give students on the spectrum the support they need to ensure they are taking care of themselves while maintaining a healthy way of living.

Gift Card Program - up to \$500.00

With the rising cost of essential goods in Canada, many families and individuals find themselves unable to keep up. The Gift Card Program aims to reduce the cost of living for many vulnerable families and individuals by assisting with basic and extraordinary living expenses by providing gift cards redeemable at their local grocer or supermarket.

Autism Canada is a Non-Profit Organization, and due to limited funds, a funding cap applies to each applicant per program. Program applications for all ages are thoroughly vetted, and we appreciate your patience as we process them. Applicants are limited to 1 (one) program per 1 (one) family per calendar year.

Funds are to be used within six calendar months of remittance. Funds will be dispersed to the organization/service provider, not the individual.

All funds dispersed through the Gift Card Program will be in Canadian Dollars loaded into gift cards or E-cards redeemable at Canadian retailers only. Physical cards and E-Cards will be sent to the organization/service provider for distribution.

The application will be null and void if unaccompanied by 2 (two) completed referral from professionals listed.