Autism Speaks
National Market Survey to Determine Housing Needs of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)
Request for Proposals

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its estimate of autism prevalence in the United States to 1 in 88 children (1 in 54 boys, 1 in 252 girls). Based on these new statistics, approximately 50,000 individuals with ASD will turn 18 this year in the U.S. Such numbers indicate a future demand for adult services, including housing and residential supports, which will vastly surpass the current supply. In order to understand the entire scope of the needs of adults with autism, a comprehensive, national market survey must be conducted that has a broad demographic range but can capture variables on a local level to ensure the effective use of collected data and enhance the communication between real estate developers, financial institutions, legislators, families and service providers.

Autism Speaks seeks to support a National Market Survey that will quantify and characterize both the current demand for housing and residential support services for adults with autism across the country and projected future needs over the next 10 years. The objective of this funding will be to survey a large enough sample size of adult-age individuals and impending adults (ages 14 to 21) with ASD and their families to identify and quantify their needs in terms of housing and the support services within the residential environment. Information gathering should include costs of potential support needs as well as funding streams available to the individuals and their families for residential services. Questions that address the training needs of support staff, proximity to public transportation and community resources should also be included in the survey. The survey will need to be done by a highly qualified independent group with experience in this type of work.

Autism Speaks will accept applications that address and monitor each activity listed below.

Specific Activities:

- Develop research methodology;
- Develop survey questionnaire;
- Disseminate survey in collaboration with Autism Speaks’ database and other identified sources;
- Collection of data;
- Data analysis; and
- Production of a full report as well as an executive summary of findings.
Outcomes: A comprehensive report of the residential needs of individuals with ASD, and the funding available. Deliverables will include an executive summary that will serve to present the demand to policymakers, investors and developers and will be made available on the Autism Speaks website for the broader community. The report should also provide data to determine the need for greater public and private sector funding.

The amount requested shall not exceed $50,000, and multi-year grants will not be awarded.

Proposal Submission

Please Note

- Proposals will be accepted through our online grant system from July 2 through July 27, 2012.
- Informational webinar will be held on July 11 at 1 p.m. EST. You are not required to attend the webinar; it is purely informational. Please email leslie.long@autismspeaks.org to sign up.
- The Proposal process is here: https://www.grantinterface.com/autismspeaksfs/Common/LogOn.aspx

Completing the Proposal

1. **Register Your Project.** Start a new account to begin the process.
2. **Project Narrative.**
   - **The following questions must be answered in the order they appear. They are all required.**
     - **Description**
       - What is the capacity of the applicant to carry out this project? Please include staff experience as it relates to the proposal.
     - **Project Objectives.**
       - What planning activities will take place before project start-up?
       - How will you develop the research methodology to ensure the target population is represented?
       - How will you define the market area to ensure all demographic (rural, suburban and urban areas), and socioeconomic levels of adolescents and adults are represented?
       - How will you disseminate the Market Survey in collaboration with Autism Speaks’ database and other relevant and secure databases?
       - How will you collect and secure the data?
       - How will progress be monitored?
     - **Evaluation or Project Plan**
       - Who will design and carry out the project evaluation?
• Outcome Report
  o Who will develop and produce the final comprehensive report as well as an executive summary of findings?
  o What experience does the report’s author have in writing this type of data analysis?

3. Budget. Please upload a budget, and provide written budget justifications to detail each item on the form. Include calculation(s) used to estimate costs. An amount not to exceed 10% (inclusive) of the total award may be used for Sponsoring Institution’s indirect (overhead) costs. The total award including indirect costs cannot exceed the annual maximum award allowed. (See other Restrictions on next page).

4. Other Attachments.

• Letters of Support or Letters of Arrangements from collaborating organizations delineating what their relationship will be with the project. *Optional*
• Resumes of applicant(s) and a list of Board members and key staff. *Required*
• Other Funding- Provide a list of other contributions and sources of support and matching funds for the project as well as any other applications currently being solicited for the project. *Required*
• A brief history of the organization, its mission statement, and a description of current activities. *Required*
• Other supporting materials relevant to the proposed project. *Optional*
• The Profit & Loss statement (aka Income Statement or Statement of Activities) from your agency’s two most recent audited financial statements. Please do not send the entire audited financial statements. *Required*

Applications may not be faxed or e-mailed. Applications should be submitted electronically using the Autism Speaks online grant system.

Announcement Information

Applicants will be notified by e-mail of the application’s status no later than December 2012. All grant awards shall be posted on the Autism Speaks website. All outcomes will be posted after the completion of the project.
Payment of Awards

The grant proposal budget cannot exceed $50,000. Multi-year grants will not be awarded.

The recipient of the grant from Autism Speaks must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose for what they were originally intended. Autism Speaks requires that a detailed accounting of all funds along with a follow-up report on the activity or activities funded at the six month timeframe and more detailed report that will be submitted no more than a year from the date of the award. A comprehensive report will include the residential needs of individuals with ASD that were part of the survey, demographic areas in need of development, areas that have established development and areas that are currently developing. In addition, funding sources available shall be identified on a local, state, federal and private sector level. Deliverables will include an executive summary that will serve to present the demand for housing and residential supports for individuals with ASD to policymakers, investors and developers. The report should also provide data to support the need for greater public and private funding. Any funds not used in the above manner specified must be returned to Autism Speaks.

If you have any questions regarding the Autism Speaks National Market Survey Request for Proposals please contact Leslie Long, Director of Housing and Adult Services at leslie.long@autismspeaks.org or 609-228-7317.
Proposals will be reviewed in a two-tiered process:

**Tier 1 – Community Grants Review Committee**

Each proposal will be reviewed by an individual with autism, or a family member of an individual with autism, and an autism professional. All reviewers will rate the grants on a score of 1 – 5 (1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) and provide comments. Every effort will be made to vary the reviewers as much as possible. No one individual will review more than four grants per review cycle.

**Volunteer Community Reviewer** – Individual with autism or a parent of an individual with autism spectrum disorders with knowledge of the area of the grant.

**Volunteer Autism Professional** – A professional in the autism community who has experience in running successful service entities.

**Tier 2 – Housing and Residential Services Committee Members**

All proposals that receive a final score of 2.5 or better will be forwarded to the Housing and Residential Services Committee. The Housing and Residential Service Committee will make recommendations to the Autism Speaks Board of Directors. The Autism Speaks Board of Directors will provide final approval. All notifications will be made before the end of 2012.

**Tier 1 and Tier 2 reviewers will consider the following elements:**

- Experience of lead staff to manage national market data
- Geography of states selected to survey to ensure diversity reach
- Ability to address reach of the target population
- Ability to replicate for additional national market surveys
- Clarity of proposal with defined interim and outcome measures
- Organization/thought/presentation
- Reasonable/Detailed line-item budget
- Qualifications of the organization/principals/advisors
- Viability of the project and organization (based on history, income and expense info, and qualifications).
- The quality of the executive summary to be delivered
Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest include but are not limited to an entity that currently provides service for a family member of the Housing and Residential Services Committee, Autism Speaks Board of Directors, Family Services Committee, Autism Speaks staff, Community Reviewer or Volunteer Autism Professional Reviewer. All conflicts must be declared at the beginning of the process. Anyone with a conflict of interest is not permitted to participate in the discussion of the grant proposal for that entity, and will be asked to leave the meeting during the discussion. Solicitation of individual Autism Speaks Board of Directors or staff member, as well as any member of the Housing and Residential Supports Committee, the Family Services Committee, Parent Reviewer or the Volunteer Autism Professional Reviewer by potential recipients for specific grant request is prohibited. All recommendations made by the Housing and Residential Supports Committee to the Autism Speaks Board of Directors are based on the merit and feasibility of the proposal as outlined. Final approval is required by the Autism Speaks Board of Directors before funding may occur.