



Norma and Malcom Baker Recreation Grants

Applicant Guidebook

Since 2018, the Norma and Malcom Baker Recreation Grant program has awarded over \$600,000 to more than 120 organizations across the country and served tens of thousands of people with autism, their caregivers and families, teachers, therapists and neurotypical peers.

The Norma and Malcolm Baker Recreation Program grants may be awarded to both non-profit and for-profit organizations up to \$5,000.

The focus of the Baker Recreational Grants is threefold:

- to promote local services that enhance the lives of those affected by autism spectrum disorders
- to expand the capacity to effectively serve the ASD community
- to increase the field of national service providers

Autism Speaks places a significant emphasis on the product or deliverable of each proposal to benefit the autism community beyond those participating in the program.

Deliverables include videos, manuals and curricula that may be shared on the Autism Speaks website for the broader community. In addition, Autism Speaks seeks to ensure proposals provide opportunities for individuals with varying levels of need. Careful consideration will also be given to applications that specifically address the needs of underserved communities, which can include rural towns, non-English speaking populations, and other vulnerable groups.

Beginning in September, we accept applications for programs to be funded in January the following year. All information on the process and the current application cycle timeline can be found at www.autismspeaks.org/autism-grants-service-providers.



2021 Norma and Malcom Baker Recreation Grants Application Timeline*:

- **September 7:** Application process opens
- **October 22:** Deadline for applications
- **October 26 – November 9:** Review committees meet and make decisions on recommendations
- **November 10:** Recommendations are reviewed and approved
- **November 22:** All applicants notified, and announcements made on social media
- **Starting January 15:** Funds disbursed upon receipt of contracts
- **End December 2022:** Final Report from recipients due to Autism Speaks

* Dates subject to change

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can individuals apply for a Baker Grant?

Answer: No. Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)3 exempt status that have been in existence for at least one year may apply. For the Norma and Malcolm Baker Recreation program, for-profits may also apply.

2. Can organizations outside the United States apply?

Answer: No, only organizations in the 50 United States plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may apply.

3. What type of organization can apply?

Answer: 501(c)3 exempt organizations with at least three staff members (either paid or volunteer) can apply. We do not fund an idea for an organization.

4. What requirements must an organization have to apply?

Answer: The non-profit organization must have a federal tax ID number, at least three volunteer or paid staff members and an established infrastructure, which includes a physical location and a website.

5. Can school districts apply?

Answer: Yes, but we will not consider programs that should be legally funded by the school district under the IDEA. An example of an IDEA-funded program is the provision of assistive technology to students with autism.



6. **Can an organization that was funded previously through the Chapter, Regional and Neighborhood grants apply again this year?**

Answer: Yes, if it's for a different program than the one that was funded previously.

7. **Can funding go towards programs for individuals with other disabilities?**

Answer: No. All funding MUST go only towards programs serving individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

8. **What is the maximum amount an organization may request?**

Answer: \$5,000.

9. **How long is the grant period? Is it multi-year?**

Answer: The grant period is nine months, beginning once the check is received.

10. **What type of funding do you provide?**

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

- a. **Summer Camp Programs** – including day and overnight programs that provide a safe and nurturing environment where people with autism can enjoy a variety of therapeutic activities and sports as well as arts and technology programs that help them reach their full potential during the summer. These programs are also a source of much needed respite for families and caregivers.
- b. **Adult Service Programs** – including recreation and respite programs specifically for adults. These programs may also teach life skills, health and community living skills.
- c. **Adult Employment Programs** – including programs that are dedicated to helping individuals with autism find and maintain meaningful employment by teaching them the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.
- d. **Physical Fitness and Sports Programs** – including a wide range of athletic activities and team sports, as well as health and wellness programs both in school and after school which aim to ensure people with autism are learning how to engage in physical activities that they can share with their peers.
- e. **Swimming and Water Safety** – including programs that provide qualified swimming and water safety lessons specifically for individuals with autism.

11. **What are some things that you do not fund?**

Answer: We DO NOT fund the following items:

- a. *Endowment, debt reduction, or fundraising activities*
- b. *Administrative salaries, i.e. those not directly working in the program for which you are requesting funding*
- c. *Food, apparel or equipment that can be donated in kind*



d. Rent or financing of buildings

12. **Do you fund staff salaries?**

Answer: Yes, for new or additional staff (or staff hours) who work directly with individuals with autism in the new or expanded program.

13. **Do you accept applications via email or mail?**

Answer: No. We only accept applications using the online form:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/autismspeaksfs/Common/LogOn.aspx>

14. **When and how will organizations be notified of the result of their application?**

Answer: All applicants will be notified VIA EMAIL, prior to an announcement on Autism Speaks' social media platforms,

15. **What kind of reporting is required for awarded proposals?**

Answer: An online questionnaire will be emailed to the grantee's main point of contact and must be completed online by

16. **Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback as to why their proposal was not chosen?**

Answer: Yes, that information will be provided upon request by contacting grants@autismspeaks.org

17. **How are applications reviewed?**

Answer: All applications are reviewed first internally to make sure guidelines are followed. Eligible ones are next passed onto location-based volunteer review committees who score each proposal and offer feedback to arrive at a final ranking. The top proposals in each location are recommended to Autism Speaks leadership for final approval.