2023 OAR & AIR-P Community Grant Competition
Request for Applications (RFA)
Applications due Monday, April 24, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST

The Community Grant Competition supports the design, packaging, and distribution of informational resources that aim to enhance the physical health and quality of life of autistic individuals.

Background

We believe that autistic individuals and the people who surround them (relatives, educators, health care providers) have the potential to innovate practical solutions that promote the quality of life of autistic individuals. The Organization for Autism Research (OAR)—in collaboration with the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P)—seeks applications for the 2023 Community Grant Competition.

Through this competition, OAR/AIR-P will promote the development of community resources that enhance the physical health of autistic individuals. These resources may enhance autistic individuals' health and quality of life directly or indirectly (i.e. by providing guidance to family members, educators, or other providers). OAR/AIR-P will award grants ranging from $1,000-$10,000 for up to eight (8) related projects. The projects may last up to one year.

The following are examples of projects that will be funded through this Request for Application (RFA). All projects must be publicly accessible and intended for non-commercial informational and educational purposes. Projects may include, but are not limited to, the creation of:

   a. Guides and/or manuals;
   b. Educational curricula;
   c. Books (children's, instructional);
   d. Practical toolkits; or
   e. Innovative multi-media tools.

Objective

Projects will promote the physical and mental health of autistic individuals across the lifespan. Specifically, all funded projects will lead to the production and dissemination of a practical tool; all funded projects will have the potential to impact community practices or public policy and aim to enhance the quality of life for autistic individuals. Practical tools that are available in languages other than English are welcomed.

Priority Topics. Projects must address at least one of the following priority topics:

- Primary Care Services and Quality;
- Community-Based Lifestyle Activities;
- Mental Health Services or Supports;
- Health Systems and Services; and
- Gender, Sexuality, and Reproductive Health.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include community stakeholders, such as:

- Parents/family members
- Autistic individuals
- Direct autism service providers

Community organizations (e.g., K-12 public schools, parent groups, 501(c)(3) non-profits, etc.) University/academic partners are encouraged but not required. By the time of award, the applicant must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status).

Competition

Applications are due by April 24, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST. Select researchers and community members from OAR and AIR-P's network will immediately review the applications. All applicants will be notified of the decisions in early August. Award winners will be announced in August with funding to begin in September 2023.

Evaluation Criteria

Review criteria for the **application** include:
   a. **Significance** – Does the project address an important, everyday challenge that autistic individuals and other principal stakeholders experience when supporting the physical and mental health of autistic individuals and their families?
   b. **Stakeholder engagement** – Does the project plan meaningfully engage relevant stakeholders in the project?
   c. **Feasibility** – Is the development plan for the resource clear and specific? Can the project be reasonably completed given the proposed timeline and requested budget?

Review criteria for the **resource** include:
   a. **Practical relevance** – Does the proposed resource appropriately address an everyday health-related challenge experienced by autistic individuals, principal stakeholders, and their families?
   b. **Accessibility** – Will the proposed resource include plain language, visuals, captions/transcripts, or other aspects to ensure accessibility to non-academic individuals, including individuals with and without I/DD?
   c. **Relevance and Generalizability –** Will the resource be relevant and usable to community members beyond the grantee's local community?

Budget

OAR/AIR-P will fund up to eight (8) awards between $1,000 and $10,000 each.

Eligible expenses include:
- Graphic design work
- Translation services
- Web/app development
- Incentives for stakeholder review
- Transportation fees
- Print materials and publication fees
- Distribution fees
- Administrative costs

Ineligible expenses include:
- Salary or stipends for work performed by internal staff
- Salary or stipend for writing contributors
- Indirect costs[1]
- Tuition fee remission
- Food or beverage expenses
- Website maintenance
- Essential software and equipment[2]

[1] Not applicable to University of California Institutions
[2] Exceptions made on a case-by-case basis

Application Requirements:

Compliance with the RFA and administrative application requirements is essential. OAR/AIR-P reserve the right to disqualify applicants who do not meet the stated requirements or funding guidelines.

1. Basic Information – Online form
   a. Applicant Contact Information
   b. Project Title, Resource Type, and Priority Topic
   c. Project start and end dates
   d. Funding (amount requested; other sources)
2. Project Summary – File upload – Limited to 4 pages maximum, single-spaced, Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial size 11 font, 1" margins:
   a. Target Audience
   b. Background
   c. Product
   d. Accessibility
   e. Project Team
   f. Stakeholder Engagement
   g. Project Scope and timeline
   h. Dissemination plan
3. Budget form – Upload
4. Draft Resource Upload – No page limit

Award Requirements:

1. Final expense report and receipts (if requested) must be submitted within 30 days of the project closing date.
2. Plain language promotional summary is required at the end of the funding period to be distributed throughout the OAR and AIR-P networks.
3. Projects that are awarded funding must acknowledge the Autism Intervention Network on Physical Health (AIR-P) and the Organization for Autism Research (OAR) in all programs, public information materials, and publications resulting from the research project and should be shared with AIRP@mednet.ucla.edu; programs@researchautism.org. The following language should be

Online Application Process

Interested applicants may apply for a Community Resource Grant through the SurveyMonkey Apply application portal at: https://researchautism.smapply.org/prog/community_grant/. The deadline to apply is April 24, 2023 at 11:59pm EST. For questions or comments, please email programs@researchautism.org.

FAQs

A "FAQ" section on the application process for the program is available at

https://researchautism.org/how-we-help/community-grant-competition/community-grant-competition-faq/.

Timeline

RFA Released		Application Due		Funding Notification		Start of funding		End of funding period
October 14, 2022	→	April 24, 2023	→	August 4, 2023	→	September 1, 2023	→	September 30, 2024