

Grants and Financial Aid



Did you know that there are grants, scholarships, and other financial aid sources that you may qualify for to offset your out-of-pocket costs for ABA therapy and other services? Read more below and visit the website links for more information and to apply.

UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation

Website Link: [United Healthcare Children's Foundation - UHCCF](#)

"The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) offers timely financial support to families, so they can focus on what is most important – improving the quality of life of their child. UHCCF grants help with medical expenses not covered, or not fully covered, by a family's commercial health insurance.

UHCCF is happy to consider children aged 3-6 for a one-time grant to help cover the cost of ABA therapy."

Autism Care Today (ACT)

Website Link: [Home - Autism Care Today \(act-today.org\)](#)

"Autism Care Today grants are designed to provide access to individuals and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. Grant payments will be made directly to pre-approved treatment providers, assessors, or materials vendors. Areas of support include but are not limited to: Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy, speech and occupational therapy, bio-medical testing, supplements, assistive technologies, safety equipment, social skills groups, special needs summer camps, and many more."

First Hand

Website Link: [Request Funding | Cerner Charitable Foundation](#)

"First Hand is dedicated to impacting the health of children, their families and communities through reactive and preventative initiatives. To fulfill that mission, we provide funding for individual children with health-related needs when insurance and other financial resources have been exhausted."

Financial Barriers?

Every parent wants the best for their child, but what happens when recommended services or supplies seem out of reach due to financial limitations?

Some people may not have medical insurance, while others may have a high deductible or out-of-pocket costs, and still others have insurance that doesn't even cover ABA therapy or other recommended services for children who have been diagnosed with autism.

All of these grant and financial aid programs have been designed to help break financial barriers that keep children from getting the services that they need.

Ask Your Insurance...

If you have insurance, call your carrier and ask:

- Do I have coverage for ABA therapy?
- Do I have a co-insurance, co-pay, or cost-share for ABA therapy?
- Do I have to pay for ABA therapy 100% until I reach my deductible? How much is my deductible?

If you do not have insurance coverage for ABA therapy, or your out-of-pocket costs are high, one of these grant programs may be able to help ease the financial burden.

Modest Needs

Website Link: [Home - Modest Needs®](#)

"Modest Needs hallmark grant is our Self-Sufficiency Grant. We make Self-Sufficiency Grants in an effort to assist individuals and families who, because they are working and live just above the poverty level, are ineligible for most types of conventional social assistance but who, all the same, are living one or two lost paychecks away from the kind of financial catastrophe that eventually leads to homelessness."

Autism Spectrum Disorder Foundation (ASDF)

Website Link: [Our Programs at Autism Spectrum Disorder Foundation \(ASDF\) \(myasdf.org\)](#)

"With medical and non-medical costs so high and most insurance policies having little to no coverage, it is difficult for many parents to cover costs for resources, programs, applications, and other items that are beneficial to an autistic child's future. We hear from many parents who felt they had nowhere to turn and their pleas for help were continually ignored. From social skills camps and swim lessons to holiday gift cards and iPads, Autism Spectrum Disorder Foundation is here to help parents of autistic children in any way we can."

Autism Scholarship Program (Ohio)

Website Link: [Autism Scholarship Program | Ohio Department of Education](#)

"The Autism Scholarship Program (ASP) gives the parents of children with autism who qualify for a scholarship the choice to send the child to a special education program other than the one operated by the school district of residence to receive their education and the services outlined in the child's individualized education program (IEP)."

Jon Peterson Scholarship Program (Ohio)

Website Link: [Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program | Ohio Department of Education](#)

"The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program provides scholarships to students who are eligible to attend kindergarten through 12th grade and have an IEP from their district."



Tips for Applying

1. Read all of the exclusions and requirements. Some organizations will only provide funds for specific types of therapies or services. Don't waste your time applying for a grant that may not provide the help you are looking for.
2. Read the entire application before you fill it out, and gather everything you need (IEPs, tax statements, etc.) ahead of time.
3. Add a personal touch. Sometimes adding information about your child and why you are seeking assistance can help the organization feel a personal connection to your situation.
4. If you are declined the first time, apply again. Organizations cannot help everyone who applies, and perhaps you will be in the next batch of families who receive aid.