

## **About the Suzanne Tyner Autism Fund**

Bob and Suzy Tyner founded Avenues for Autism in 2004 to assist local individuals and families touched by autism and provide better access to programs and services. To build on their work and further our mission of growing the opportunities, future, and lives for all individuals with autism, we introduced the Suzanne Tyner Autism Fund program. This program will provide financial assistance for local families so they may access critical programs, support, or equipment.

## **Funding Process**

We created the Suzanne Tyner Autism Fund to help local families, residing in Northwest Ohio and Southeastern Michigan, pay for autism services not covered by traditional insurance or grants. Such services include, but are not limited to early intervention programs, assessments and testing, social skills programs, college support programs, high school programs, transition-to-employment programs, touch devices, equipment, and recreational activities. Award amounts depend on fund availability, yearly fundraising activities, and the number of qualified applications received. To determine if you are eligible to apply as a local resident please review the list of counties we serve on our website at [AvenuesforAutism.org](http://AvenuesforAutism.org)

Our committee reviews all submitted applications and makes decisions based on the financial needs of each applicant. If applied-for amounts exceed our available funding, households with multiple autism diagnoses receive priority. Additionally, the committee reserves the right to use a lottery system to decide between equally qualified applicants, if needed funding is available. Any application that is denied will receive a letter regarding the decision.

The committee's decisions are final. All denied applicants receive a letter regarding the decision. Applications not chosen for funding may be considered in the next review period when additional dollars become available.

We value your privacy. Committee members sign a confidentiality agreement prohibiting disclosure of any information on an application without the applicant's written authorization.

Funding awards are in no way a recommendation by Avenues for Autism as to the appropriateness or safety of a particular service or device. We urge applicants to consult with their physicians, therapists, or educators regarding the choice and use of a particular service, program, or piece of equipment.

## **Amount Requested**

Applicants may request up to \$750 for autism-related equipment, camps, social clubs, etc., or up to \$1,500 for intensive early intervention programs or ongoing educational and college supports. Approved amounts are at the discretion of the selection committee and some exceptions may apply.

Awarded funds will not exceed \$1500 in a calendar year per individual. A fund recipient is eligible to re-apply within the calendar year until the maximum award of \$1500 is received should additional needs for assistance arise. Eligibility for funding is reset each calendar year.

The fund makes disbursement payments directly to the treatment provider, program, school, or vendor.

Applicants must provide the following documentation to be considered:

- Verification of autism diagnosis from M.D. or D.O.
- Copy of previous year tax return (social security number may be blacked out)
- Documentation showing cost of program, service, or equipment for which you are seeking funding
- Documentation showing applicant enrollment of program or service (if applicable) and a contact name
- Your family story or situation and why you are applying for the Suzanne Tyner Autism Fund

## **Application Deadline**

The selection committee meets to review applications monthly. Applications are received throughout the month and notification of awarded grants become available by the 15th of the following month.

Applications completed in full—with all required documentation included  
—may be submitted online at: [avenuesforautism.org/funding](https://avenuesforautism.org/funding)