

## **2024-2025 Philadelphia Autism Project Seed Award Application – EXAMPLE**

**Disclaimer:** This application is provided only as an example to show the level of detail we expect for each question. It is meant to be a guide for applicants and should not be seen as the only type of project we will fund. All applications will be reviewed based on their own strengths, and funding decisions will depend on how well each project matches the Seed Award Initiative’s goals and requirements.

Thank you for your interest in applying for seed award funds. For information on eligibility requirements, important dates, and the review process, please visit the Seed Award Webpage. For questions or to contact someone from the Philadelphia Autism Project, please email [phillyap@drexel.edu](mailto:phillyap@drexel.edu) or call 267-582-0273.

### **Timelines and What to Expect:**

- **February 3, 2025 at 5 pm:** Due date for applications
- **March 2025:** Applications are reviewed
- **April 2025:** Applicants are informed of their funding status
- **May 2025:** Due date to return completed seed award paperwork
- **Summer 2025:** Attend launch event to connect with others and share your work.
- **January 2026:** Final Progress Report due.

### **Contact Information**

- Name of Group (if applicable): Autism Initiative
- First Name: Jane
- Last Name: Doe
- Street Address: 123 Market Way
- City: Philadelphia
- State: PA
- Zip Code: 19104
- Phone Number: (215) 555 -1234
- Email Address: [jane.doe@example.com](mailto:jane.doe@example.com)

**1. Would you describe your group/project as a grassroots project (a fairly new organization/project without a previously established network and/or resources) or a more experienced organization/group (have the organizational resources and structure in place to help you implement the project)?**

- ✓ Grassroots
- Experienced
- Unsure

**Previous Awardees**

**2. Have you/your organization ever received seed award funding from the Philadelphia Autism Project?**

- Yes
- ✓ No
- Unsure

**Program Merit and Strength**

**3. What do you aim to accomplish with the seed award funding?**

Our main goal is to create a safe support community led by and for young adults with autism, ages 18-30. We focus on three main areas: making social connections, building job skills, and supporting the community. This program aims to fill a support gap by offering resources, peer-led workshops, and group sessions that help participants take charge of their social lives and careers. By building this peer network, we hope to reduce loneliness and improve access to job resources, helping young adults in Philadelphia feel more connected and supported.

**4. How will you carry out your program? Please include information about:**

- a. The structure of the program**
- b. Number and length of group meetings/events**
- c. Frequency of group meetings/events**
- d. Number of individuals you anticipate participating, etc.**

Our program will have 90-minute sessions every two weeks for four months. Each session will focus on a different topic, like building social skills, exploring careers,

advocacy training, and community-building activities. We'll start each session with a short presentation by one of our facilitators, followed by group discussions and activities. We expect 15-20 people per session, aiming to reach about 60 different people over the four months. The sessions will take place at a community center or library in a central location that is easy to get to and has facilities for everyone.

#### **5. How will you measure success?**

After each session, participants will fill out short surveys to share their thoughts, and we will keep track of attendance. At the end of the program, we'll interview participants who are willing to talk about how the program has impacted their personal and work lives. Our goals are to have 80% of participants report they are satisfied, show improvement in social skills, and increase their knowledge of job resources. We will also measure how involved participants are in community activities to see if their confidence and engagement in the community have grown.

#### **Community Impact**

#### **6. How are individuals on the Spectrum and/or their families leading or participating in activities?**

Our program is led by participants, with facilitators who are young adults on the autism spectrum sharing their personal experiences and insights. We focus on creating a space where people feel comfortable talking about their needs and challenges. Families will be invited to join monthly meetings to share their thoughts and learn how to support their loved ones in the group. These meetings will help families understand the challenges autistic young adults face and help build a stronger support system.

#### **7. Why is your group or program needed?**

Many young adults on the autism spectrum struggle to find community resources and social support when they leave school. Our program helps fill this gap by providing social and career guidance in a safe, supportive environment. Without this support, many young adults may feel isolated and have trouble finding jobs, which can make life harder. By offering peer-led support, we provide a different kind of help that connects with participants who might not feel comfortable in regular programs. This project aims to make sure that autistic young adults in Philadelphia have the resources, skills, and community support they need to lead fulfilling lives.

**8. How do you plan to share information with individuals on the Spectrum and their families to participate in your group or program?**

We plan to reach out to potential participants and their families using different methods. Our main way of reaching people will be through social media, on platforms like Instagram and Facebook, which are popular with our age group. We will also work with community centers, autism support groups, and schools to hand out flyers and share information with a larger audience.

**9. Describe the population your support group, program, or event will serve (such as age, audience, Philadelphia neighborhood location, etc.).**

Our program is for young adults on the autism spectrum, ages 18-30, who live in the Philadelphia area. We want to help those who may not have access to traditional support services and need extra help as they move into adulthood. We aim to focus on serving people from diverse backgrounds, including low-income families, BIPOC communities, and families where English may be a second language, as these groups often face more challenges in getting support.

**10. Does your project reach under-resourced populations? If so, please explain. If not, please identify what would help to do so.**

Yes, we are committed to making our program accessible to people from under-resourced backgrounds. Sessions will be held at a centrally located place in Philadelphia, like a local library branch or a community center, to make it easier to get to by public transportation. By choosing a central location, we hope to make it easier for people from different neighborhoods to attend, no matter their transportation or mobility needs. We will also provide transportation subsidies to help with travel costs. In addition, we plan to build partnerships with community organizations that serve under-resourced populations like the Urban League of Philadelphia, ACHIEVEability, and/or The Welcoming Center to make sure the program reaches those who need it most.

**Sustainability**

**11. What are the long-term plans for your group/program? For example, how will your group/program continue beyond the funding received from the Philadelphia Autism Project? Are there other grant opportunities that you plan to apply for?**

We want to make the Autism Initiative a lasting support network that will grow and continue after the first funding period. To keep it going, we aim to partner with community organizations (mentioned above) and autism-friendly employers who might want to support our career development programs. We will also apply for grants from local foundations and look into crowdfunding to get different sources of funding. In the future, we hope to create a permanent peer network that keeps helping young adults on the autism spectrum in Philadelphia.

**12. Other Funding - Provide a list of other contributions and sources of support and matching funds for the project.**

- a. Donation of snack and drinks from local cafes and restaurants to encourage participation
- b. Pending grant application with the Philadelphia Foundation for \$2,000

**13. What is the staff structure and personnel needed to sustain the project? For example, who will be working on this project or helping to plan programs/events?**

The project team will have two lead facilitators with lived experience on the autism spectrum. They will run the sessions, do outreach, and gather feedback. We will also have two volunteer assistants to help with things like setting up and handling session materials. In addition, we'll work closely with a licensed social worker and an employment expert, both of whom have offered to give free advice on how to organize our workshops and career support activities.

**Budget**

You are expected to keep a record of all purchase receipts and invoices should the Philadelphia Autism Project request them.

**14. Amount Requested (Required):**

Amount: \$1,000

**15. Provide a budget breakdown on how you plan to use the funds (Required):**

- Venue Rental for 8 Sessions: \$300
  - Covers the cost of renting community or library meeting rooms for all 8 sessions.
- Program Materials, Supplies, and Workshop Tools: \$200
  - Includes print materials, handouts, worksheets, and digital resources for participants (\$100).
  - Art supplies, sensory tools, and other activity materials to help with engagement and accessibility (\$50).
  - Light refreshments for participants (e.g., water and snacks) for all sessions (\$50).
- Stipends for Lead Facilitators for Program Development and Facilitation: \$400
  - Time spent on planning and developing the program (\$200).
  - Payment for leading and facilitating all sessions (\$200).
- Transportation Subsidies for Participants: \$100
  - Covers SEPTA transit passes or reimbursement for travel expenses, particularly for participants from under-resourced neighborhoods, to make it easier for them to attend.

**16. Please list any other relevant information which you would like to share with the Seed Award Review Committee.**

We're excited to make a lasting difference for young adults on the spectrum in Philadelphia. This seed funding will help start our program and show the need for it to grow in the future. We look forward to working with the Philadelphia Autism Project to make this idea come to life

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. For additional assistance or questions, please contact the Philadelphia Autism Project at [phillyap@drexel.edu](mailto:phillyap@drexel.edu) or (267) 582-0273.**