

Texas Autism Grants Application Kit

Texas and national autism funding your family can apply for, with the documents each program asks for and a tracker for what you send.



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Where Texas autism money comes from

Autism funding in Texas comes from three places: the state, private nonprofits, and federal benefit programs. Most families can use more than one of them at the same time, so work through this kit program by program.

The tracker near the back is where you write down what you sent and when to follow up. Add your child to the CLASS, MDCP, HCS, and TxHmL Medicaid waiver interest lists as soon as you have a diagnosis. HCS and TxHmL waitlists run 10 years or longer in many Texas regions, and your place in line starts the day you submit the interest list application.



Good to know

Every program in this kit sets its own eligibility rules and deadlines, and each one excludes certain expenses. Read the program's own site before you start an application, since rules change between cycles.

Texas grants and programs

Program	What it covers	Who qualifies	Where to apply
PDSES	\$1,500 one time for educational materials, technology, supplemental speech therapy, and tutoring	Texas public school student, Pre-K through 12, receiving special education services through an IEP, who has not received PDSES or its earlier SSES version	spedtex.org/resources/pdses , through the SPEDTex parent portal
Hunter Hinze Transition Grant	Up to \$500 for services that support independence and self-sufficiency for autistic adults	Texas resident age 18 or older with an autism diagnosis. Past recipients wait at least two years to reapply	texasautismsociety.org . Applications open once a year
Variety of Texas	Adaptive equipment, communication technology, therapeutic services, and summer camp experiences	Texas children and young adults with disabilities	varietytexas.org

Texas grants and programs (continued)

Program	What it covers	Who qualifies	Where to apply
Hope For Three	FARS grants of up to \$3,000 over one year. Quick Assist covers one-time requests of \$500 or less	Families who can show proof of Fort Bend County residency. Resources and referrals go to any family that asks, wherever it lives	hopeforthree.org
Imagine a Way	Sponsorship that pays for therapy for a child with autism	Families in its central Texas, Houston, or San Antonio counties with a child under age 7 who has a documented autism diagnosis. Family income has to be above the Texas children's Medicaid limit and under \$125,000 a year, or \$150,000 with two qualifying children	imagineaway.org/page/apply . Applications are accepted at any time
The People Project of Texas, Huck Helps	Family financial assistance	Texas families statewide	thepeopleprojecttx.org/huck-helps

Texas grants and programs (continued)

Program	What it covers	Who qualifies	Where to apply
Texas Elks Charitable Activities	Help given through local Elks chapters	Texas children with disabilities up to age 18, or up to age 21 if still in school	texaselks.org/special-grants
Scottish Rite for Children	Medical care for spine, foot, hand, hip, limb, and sports conditions, plus dyslexia. Autism care is not listed	Children treated at the Dallas or Frisco campuses. Care is given regardless of the family's ability to pay, and co-payments and deductibles can still apply	scottishriteforchildren.org

Shriners Children's Texas in Galveston (shrinerschildrens.org) covers burn care, orthopedics, cleft lip and palate, spine and spinal cord care, and pediatric rehabilitation. Autism care is not listed there either. LifePath Systems is the behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disability authority for Collin County. Amounts and cycles change, so check with each organization before you apply.

National grants Texas families can apply for

Program	What it covers	Who qualifies	Where to apply
ACT Today	Up to \$5,000 per family for ABA therapy, speech and occupational therapy, social skills programs, safety equipment, sensory gear, communication devices, and medical assistance	US families with an autistic child. Priority goes to households under \$100,000 a year, and families above that can still apply	act-today.org. Applications are reviewed quarterly
ACT Today military family fund	Covers the same things as the main ACT Today grant	Active military families with an autistic child	act-today.org, through the military fund

National grants Texas families can apply for (continued)

Program	What it covers	Who qualifies	Where to apply
UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation	Up to \$5,000 a year toward costs your insurance does not pay, with a \$10,000 lifetime maximum per child	A child 16 or younger who has a Social Security number and is covered by a commercial health plan, which does not have to be a UnitedHealthcare plan. Adjusted gross income limits are \$65,000 for a family of 2, \$100,000 for 3, \$135,000 for 4, and \$170,000 for 5 or more	uhccf.org. Regional boards review applications once a month
MyGOAL Autism Grant	\$1,000 for one award cycle	An autistic child under 18. The program is national, so Texas families can apply. Past recipients wait three years to reapply	mygoalinc.org. Past cycles have run February 1 through April 30

The 2026 MyGOAL cycle is closed, so check the site in January for the next window. ACT Today also runs a separate SOS emergency program with an income cap of \$45,000 a year.

Documents to gather before you apply

Gather these before you start, then check each program's own site for anything else it asks for. Having them in one folder saves time on every application after the first.

☐ **Current autism diagnosis**

The evaluation report or a diagnostic letter. The Hunter Hinze Transition Grant requires an autism diagnosis.

☐ **Your child's Social Security number**

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation requires one.

☐ **Your child's Medicaid number, if you have one**

Copy it from your child's Medicaid card before you start.

☐ **Proof of Texas residency**

A utility bill, a lease, or a government ID with your address. PDSSES and the Hunter Hinze Transition Grant are only for Texas residents.

☐ **Recent tax return or proof of household income**

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation sets adjusted gross income limits by family size, and ACT Today gives priority to households under \$100,000.

☐ **Copy of your child's current IEP**

PDSSES requires that your child receive special education services through an IEP.

Application tracker

Grant or program	Date applied	Documents sent	Status	Follow-up date

Before you submit an application

Work down this list before you send any application, and check each program's own site for its current rules.

☐ **Read the exclusion list before you start**

ACT Today does not pay for transportation, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, rent, utilities, or vacations.

☐ **Match the expense to the right grant**

PDSSES pays for educational materials, devices, and supplemental services tied to your child's IEP, so ABA hours belong on a different application.

☐ **Confirm the window is open before you start**

SPEDTex lists the next PDSSES window as spring 2027 with no dates published, and the 2026 MyGOAL cycle is closed. Check each program's site for its current window.

☐ **Check whether your family has received the grant before**

PDSSES is one time per student and prior SSES recipients cannot reapply. Hunter Hinze recipients wait at least two years, and MyGOAL recipients wait three.

☐ **Send every document with the application**

Attach the diagnosis, the income proof, and the IEP together, so a missing file does not delay the review.

☐ **Confirm the amount and the cycle on the organization's own site**

The Autism Society of Texas can adjust the Hunter Hinze award as funds become available.

☐ **Add your child to the Medicaid waiver interest lists this week**

HCS and TxHmL waitlists run 10 years or longer in many Texas regions, and your place in line starts the day you submit the interest list application. Call 1-877-438-5658 to join the CLASS, MDCP, and DBMD interest lists. For HCS and TxHmL, call your local IDD authority, the LIDDA.

Sources

Sources change over time, so check each one before you act on it.

SPEDTex, PDSSES program

<https://spedtex.org/resources/pdses>

SPEDTex, PDSSES questions and application window

<https://www.spedtex.org/resources/pdses/frequently-asked-questions>

Texas Education Agency, PDSSES and SSES program updates

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/pdses-school-system-requirements-program-updates>

Autism Society of Texas, Hunter Hinze Transition Grant

<https://www.texasautismsociety.org/hunter-hinze-transition-grant/>

Variety of Texas

<https://www.varietytexas.org/>

Hope For Three

<https://hopeforthree.org/>

Imagine a Way, qualifications and application

<https://imagineaway.org/page/apply>

The People Project of Texas, Huck Helps

<https://www.thepeopleprojecttx.org/huck-helps>

Texas Elks Charitable Activities, special grants

<https://texaselks.org/special-grants>

Scottish Rite for Children, billing and insurance

<https://scottishriteforchildren.org/patients-and-visitors/billing-insurance/>

Scottish Rite for Children, fact sheet

<https://scottishriteforchildren.org/about/newsroom/press-kit-2/fact-sheet/>

Sources (continued)

Shriners Children's Texas, Galveston

<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/en/locations/texas>

LifePath Systems, Collin County

<https://www.lifepathsystems.org/who-we-are/about-us/>

ACT Today, apply for a grant

<https://www.act-today.org/apply-for-grant/>

ACT Today, grant questions

<https://www.act-today.org/apply-for-grant/autism-care-today-grant-faq/>

ACT Today, military families grant

<https://www.act-today.org/apply-for-grant/autism-care-today-for-military-families-grant-application-form/>

ACT Today SOS emergency fund

<https://www.act-today.org/our-funds/autism-care-today-sos/>

UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation, apply for a grant

<https://www.uhccf.org/apply-for-a-grant/>

MyGOAL Autism Grant program

<https://mygoalinc.org/mygoal-autism-grant-program/>

Texas Health and Human Services, Medicaid waiver interest list reduction

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about/records-statistics/interest-list-reduction>

Texas Health and Human Services, local IDD authority handbook, HCS and TxHmL interest lists

<https://fhb.hhs.texas.gov/handbooks/local-intellectual-developmental-disability-authority-handbook/7000-hcs-txhtml-interest-lists>

Texas Public Radio, waits for Texas Medicaid disability services

<https://www.tpr.org/news/2026-05-06/advocates-lawmakers-want-to-fix-long-waits-texans-with-disabilities-face-for-medicare-services>

This kit is general information and is not medical or legal advice. Talk to a qualified professional about your child's situation.

Start ABA therapy while your applications are pending

Grants, Medicaid interest lists, and insurance approvals all take time to come through. Your child can be in therapy during that wait. Alpaca Health connects Texas families with independent, local BCBAs (board certified behavior analysts) and handles the insurance and billing paperwork. If you want ABA therapy started while you work through the funding in this kit, begin with the Alpaca Health intake form.



When you are ready

Start with Alpaca Health →

<https://secure.alpacahealth.io/signup>



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