



Helping People with Autism Reach Their Full Potential

## Requirements for Applying for a Ben's Fund Grant

**Before You Apply:** Please make sure you have gathered all required documents listed in these guidelines. Only complete applications with all necessary documents will be accepted.

**Important:** This page is a guide to help you prepare your application—it is **not** the application itself.

### Ben's Fund Grant Overview

Ben's Fund provides financial assistance to children and young adults with autism to help them access equipment and services they might not otherwise be able to obtain.

Families can apply for up to **\$1,000 per year, per child** to support the needs of their child or young adult. Ben's Fund purchases all equipment and services and sends them directly to awardees — no funds are given directly to families.

### When to Apply

Applications are accepted and awarded quarterly:

**Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, Oct. 1**

The application window will close once we reach the maximum number of grants for that quarter.

## **How to Apply**

Ben's Fund is now an online grant request program.

Our grant application is managed through a secure platform where you can apply, save drafts, and track your application history.

Please gather all required documents before you apply. The application will close once we reach the maximum number of applicants each quarter.

## **Eligibility**

- Ages 0–25
- Washington residents
- Autism diagnosis
- Income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level
- Requests must be a medical necessity for treating autism

## **What Can I Apply For?**

Families can request funding for:

- Therapeutic equipment
- Therapy
- Services
- Assistive technology
- Camps
- Security or safety equipment

If you are unsure whether your request is eligible, please reach out to us - we'll be happy to help.

## Required Documents

### 1. Family Story

Please introduce all members of your household. Then, in as many words as you feel comfortable, tell us about your child or young adult and how the requested equipment or services will support their autism journey.

If there are any extenuating family circumstances you would like us to consider, please feel free to include them. Your story helps us better understand your needs and how we can best support you.

 **You can either type your family story directly in the online application or upload it as a file.**

### 2. Autism Diagnosis

Provide a letter or evaluation from a qualified professional confirming your child's autism diagnosis. The document must include:

- Child's name and DOB
- Confirmation of diagnosis
- Service provider's signature

If an official diagnosis is unavailable, a letter from a qualified medical professional with ASD-diagnosis credentials is accepted.

**Accepted professionals:** MDs, PhDs, licensed psychologists, board-certified/eligible neurologists, psychiatrists, developmental pediatricians, ARNPs, or COE providers.

**Note:** School IEPs alone are not accepted.

### 3. Proof of Income & Washington State Residency

To qualify, your family's adjusted gross income (AGI) must be at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), based on household size.

Household includes everyone living together and sharing living costs (parents, children, dependents, extended family). **If you receive child support, you must include it in your household income and provide documentation**

Please view our income thresholds below:

Household size	Adjusted Gross Monthly Income	Adjusted Gross Annual Income
For individuals	\$5,736	\$60,240
For a family of 2	\$7,502	\$81,760
For a family of 3	\$9,267	\$103,280
For a family of 4	\$11,032	\$124,800
For a family of 5	\$12,797	\$146,320
For a family of 6	\$14,562	\$167,840
For a family of 7	\$14,893	\$189,360

To verify these requirements, we request either a **Tax Return** or **Supplemental Security Income** Award Letter. Both documents must show a Washington State address.

Submit one of the following required documents:

- **Tax Filers: 2024 Form 1040** from your **Tax Return** (pages 1 & 2) for all household members, listing your child as a dependent — even if you earned no income
- **Non-tax filers: 2025 SSI Award Letter** listing your child as a beneficiary, dated within **90 days**

#### Notes:

- You must provide one of these two documents. Applications without either will not be accepted.

- Young adults 18–25 must include household income if living with guardians
- If your child is claimed on someone else’s taxes, contact us for guidance
- Additional documents may be requested to verify income and residency, but cannot replace the required documents above
- If your family income is above our limit, you may share an extenuating circumstance in your family story.
- We do **not** accept W-2s, 1099s, bank statements, 1040s from before 2024, SSI award letters older than 90 days, Social Security, SSDI, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), or Apple Health.

#### 4. Referral Letter

Provide a referral letter from a qualified professional (doctor, therapist, special education teacher, or other professional supporting your child’s autism treatment) recommending all equipment or services you are requesting as a **medical necessity**

##### Each letter must:

- Be dated within one year
- Be on official letterhead from the service provider
- Be signed by the professional
- Clearly explain how each item or service will support your child’s autism treatment
- Any items not listed in the letter will not be considered
- If young adults do not have access to the professionals listed above, we can accept a referral letter from a case worker

## 5. Invoice or Estimate:

To make the application process easier, please be prepared to:

### 1. Choose your request type

- You can select up to **3** types of items or services: **Therapeutic & Safety Equipment, Therapy, Services, Camps, or Assistive Technology.**
- You may request up to **20** items total from no more than **3** vendors.
- We recommend choosing larger, more meaningful items to make the biggest impact for your child or young adult.

### 2. Prepare your invoice table

- You will need to list each item individually, including **item name, cost** (with tax and shipping), and a **direct website link** or **vendor**.
- For iPads (Assistive Technology), select the option from our **iPad pack** options online.

### 3. Gather your invoices

- For **services, camps, or therapies**, have an invoice or estimate ready to upload.
- For therapeutic & safety equipment, invoice upload only required for vendor quotes for large items (e.g., a Springfree Trampoline). Do **not** upload general website lists.

## Guidelines to keep in mind:

- Grants cannot exceed \$1,000 in total, including tax and shipping.
- Only items listed in your referral letter can be funded.
- Ben's Fund purchases items directly from vendors and ships them to your home — funds are not given to families.
- Ben's Fund cannot register your child for a service.
- If awarded, we purchase all items at once and make a one-time lump sum payment to the service provider.

## **Application Assistance**

Please contact **Ben's Fund** at [\*\*info@bensfund.org\*\*](mailto:info@bensfund.org) if you need help with your application.

Families must submit the application themselves, although service providers can assist with the process. Please note that service providers **cannot submit applications on behalf of the family.**