

Carolina Autism and Neurodevelopment Research Center (CAN) Community Project Funding



Request for Proposals

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| Announcement Release Date | September 5, 2024 |
| Application Receipt Date | November 15, 2024 |
| Award Announcement Date | January 10, 2025 |
| Funding Period | May 16, 2025 – August 15, 2026 |

Purpose: CAN community project funding is intended to advance community-engaged outreach, support, and integration that has relevance for autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Proposals that advance community-based research or community-engaged scholarship align with the CAN research pilot funding. See [here](#) for definitions of each community-related activity.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include all faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and staff who are employees of USC and who are affiliated with CAN. Staff must have a faculty sponsor. Individuals who have received CAN research pilot funding in the past or who have applications under review are eligible to apply.

Funds Available: CAN community grants may be funded up to \$10,000. An applicant may request a project period of 15 months beginning May 16, 2025 and ending August 15, 2026. We anticipate funding up to 3 proposals.

Allowable Costs:

- Salary and fringe benefits of project personnel, including undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and staff.
- Materials and tangible resources for community participants (e.g., small toys for children, informational flyers, manuals or published resource guides, fidgets, timers, notebooks, pens, laminated visual supports, etc.)
- Space reservations: strong justification as to why current CAN spaces cannot be used must be provided.
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages that are integrated within the event schedule, as it is an evidence-based strategy for increasing community attendance and engagement.
- Travel essential to conduct the project; strong justification must be provided.

Application Procedure:

1. Develop a three-page proposal narrative that provides:



- a. A brief discussion of the background and significance of the proposed idea, including its relation to autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.
 - b. A detailed narrative of the project that includes the objectives, significance of the community project, the specific outcomes and impact of the project, and a timeline. A clear statement regarding how the project advances CAN's mission to improve the health and well-being of families and individuals with autism or neurodevelopmental disorders should be included.
 - c. Text should be single-spaced with margins not less than one-half inch and using a font size not less than 11 pt.
 - d. A cover sheet attached to the proposal (not counted in page limit) that includes the project title, the total budget request, the PI name, college/department and e-mail address. The cover sheet should include a brief summary of the proposed work.
2. Attach the following supportive documentation to the end of the proposal narrative;
- a. Bibliography (not counted in page limit)
 - b. Two-page biographical sketch/CV of the PI and Co-I that includes current and pending support.
 - c. A detailed budget and budget justification for total project costs consistent with the list of allowable costs. Please use this [budget template](#) for expenses and include a word document for the budget justification.
 - d. If you have received funding from CAN in the past, you must include a brief appendix to your proposal that includes the titles and funding amounts of these awards, along with a description of the impacts of the award.
3. Submit the completed proposal by 5:00 pm on or before due date (11.15.24)
- a. Email proposal to Sydney Arsenault at sydneya@mailbox.sc.edu

Review Process:

Applications will be evaluated for merit by a committee of USC faculty affiliated with CAN who are not listed as PI or Co-I on any applications. A 9-point scale will be used to evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Does the proposal provide a compelling argument to advance CAN's community support and integration?
- Does the proposed project advance CAN's mission to improve the health and well-being of families and individuals with autism or neurodevelopmental disorders or advance the integration of research and community support? Are the proposed activities appropriate and accurate, and is the timeline reasonable?
- Does the proposal request a reasonable budget with a sound justification?

Contact for Information: Please contact Sydney Arsenault (sydneya@mailbox.sc.edu).