



Michigan Autism Conference Caregiver Scholarship Application



About the Scholarship & Conference

The priority of the Michigan Autism Conference (MAC) Planning Committee is to protect the health and safety of all attendees and presenters while providing excellent learning opportunities to the wider autism community. As a result of the current societal landscape, state and university mandates, and feedback provided by previous conference attendees and presenters, the 2020 MAC will be now be offered virtually, rather than in-person.

Once again, ASK Family Services has partnered with the MAC to offer a limited number of Caregiver Scholarships to cover the registration fee for full virtual access to the conference for caregivers in our local community. These scholarships are available for individual conference attendees. Anyone interested in a caregiver scholarship must submit their own application. Awarded scholarships will provide caregivers with access to all virtual conference events, including those that are pre-recorded or streamed live. Those awarded with a scholarship will need an electronic device and access to reliable internet in order to engage in these activities. Please note, this scholarship does not include Wednesday conference workshops.

Mission

The mission of the Michigan Autism Conference is to disseminate information and training on scientifically validated, behaviorally based treatments to parents, caregivers, and professionals who work with and care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and to promote awareness and training of closely related conceptual, scientific, and ethical issues. This mission aims to increase functional skill development and decrease behavioral excesses to ensure individuals with autism can live enriched high-quality lives.

What's Included in "Full Virtual" Access?

Full virtual access will allow scholarship winners and other conference registrants to access presentations streamed live at specific times between October 8 to October 9, 2020, pre-recorded presentations available continuously for one month between October 8 to November 8, 2020, and other virtual offerings. For a full listing of pre-recorded and live-stream conference offerings, please check out the conference website at www.michiganautismconference.org.

Sponsor and Scholarship Winner Photo

Applicants receiving a Caregiver Scholarship for the 2020 conference may be invited to participate in a scholarship winner photo. This may involve taking a photo virtually as a group through WebEx or another photo format. Details about the photo opportunity will be shared directly with scholarship winners by ASK Family Services.



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Application Timeline

The timeline for application review and scholarship selection is as follows:

- **Deadline for application submission: Friday, September 11, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.**
- Preliminary application review: Monday, September 14, 2020
- Second application review by Scholarship Committee: Wednesday, September 16, 2020
- Decision to Parent Scholarship applicants: Friday, September 18, 2020

Who is ASK Family Services?

The Caregiver Scholarship Program is administered by ASK Family Services. ASK is a non-profit community organization that supports family and youth by improving the system of care for children’s mental health through collaboration with families, youth, and community partners. ASK Family Services has graciously taken over the Caregiver Scholarship application process and will provide a limited number of scholarships to parents and caregivers who apply. Scholarships will cover the cost of registration for one parent or caregiver attending the conference. ASK Family Services understands that to give those under our care the best possible support, we need to have relevant and current information. Often, we get the most helpful tips by talking with other parents and professionals who have experienced similar situations or who are on the same journey.

Caregiver Scholarship Program Checklist of Completion

Please check each of the following when these are completed.

Check	Application Section
	Applicant Information (Page 3)
	Application Essay (Page 4)
	Signature (Page 4)

Instructions for Application Submission:

Please submit all parts of your application to:

**ASK Family Services
 ATTN: MAC Scholarship
 445 W Michigan Ave, Suite 102
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

Fax: (269) 978-0287

Email: LatrievaB@askforkids.org - Subject Line: MAC Scholarship



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Applicant Information

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Professional affiliation: _____

How should we contact you with scholarship information and application updates? (Check one)

Primary Phone

Email

How did you hear about the Caregiver Scholarship Program? (Please check all that apply)

Check	Source	Check	Source
<input type="checkbox"/>	Previous scholarship winner (funded)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio promotion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Previous scholarship applicant (unfunded)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Previous conference attendee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/>	MAC website
<input type="checkbox"/>	Twitter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family or friend
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colleague
<input type="checkbox"/>	Another conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____



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Application Essay

Please write a 250 to 500-word essay detailing the reason you are applying to attend the 2020 Michigan Autism Conference. Please note: each individual parent or caregiver must submit an application to be considered for funding. A single essay may be submitted for a couple by one parent if the first and last name of each applicant is clearly stated in the application essay.

Please include the following information:

- Tell us about your family (e.g. what do you like to do, how many members are in your family, etc.)
- What are you hoping to learn from attending the conference (e.g. connecting to resources, meeting other caregivers, learning basic strategies, specific topics of interest, etc.)?

Application Criteria

To assist in your application submission, please review the criteria (listed below) that will be taken into consideration by the Scholarship Committee when determining awardees. Please consider these criteria when completing reviewing the completeness of your application and your application essay.

- The application was submitted by the deadline (Friday, September 11, 2020 by 5 p.m.)
- The application was fully completed with all contact information included
- The applicant has not previously received support from the Parent Scholarship Program (First-time applicants may be given priority if a high volume of applications is received)
- The applicant is a parent or caregiver of a child or children diagnosed with autism
- The severity of behavioral issues for the child or children diagnosed with autism

Signature

Please read carefully and sign prior to submission

I affirm that the above information, which I have provided, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I consent that if selected as a scholarship winner, my picture may be taken and used to promote the Caregiver Scholarship Program. I understand that late or incomplete submissions will not be considered for the scholarship. I also confirm that if granted a scholarship, I may be asked to write up a brief summary or be interviewed about my experience and knowledge gained from attending the conference.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____