



Michigan Autism Conference Caregiver Scholarship Application



ASK Family Services has partnered with the Michigan Autism Conference (MAC) again to offer a limited number of Caregiver Scholarships to cover the conference registration fee for a single conference attendee. **Please note:** all parents or caregivers interested in attending the conference must submit their own application to be considered for funding. This scholarship does **not** include Wednesday conference workshops, lodging, travel, or meals.

The 2024 Michigan Autism Conference will take place:

Thursday, October 10 & Friday, October 11

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Mission

The mission of the MAC is to disseminate information and training on scientifically validated, behaviorally-based treatments to parents and professionals who work with autistic individuals, 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 autistic individuals can live enriched, high-quality lives. As such, the MAC is dedicated to providing families, practitioners, educators, and researchers with information on a variety of topics related to the assessment and treatment of those affected by autism.

Lodging and Accommodations

A block of rooms has been reserved for MAC conference attendees at the Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites, located in downtown Kalamazoo, Michigan, for a discounted rate. Please contact the hotel directly at (269)-343-3333 to make reservations. To access the conference rate, you must state that your reservation is for the MAC.

Sponsor and Scholarship Winner Photo

Applicants receiving a Caregiver Scholarship for the 2024 conference are invited to meet the scholarship sponsors and to take a photo as a group at the conference. **This photo is scheduled for Friday, October 11** during the scheduled lunch break on the main stage of the Arcadia Ballroom in the Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites.

Application Timeline

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

- **Deadline for application submission: Friday, August 23, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. EDT**
- Preliminary application review: Monday, August 26, 2024
- Second application review by Scholarship Committee: Wednesday, August 28, 2024
- Decision to Parent Scholarship applicants: Friday, August 30, 2024



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What is ASK Family Services?

ASK is a non-profit community organization that supports families and youth who experience developmental or mental health challenges. ASK helps them build skills to use their voice within the systems of care that they are involved in through collaboration between families, youth, and community partners. Together, they reduce stigma and help build an inclusive community where everyone can successfully participate.

ASK Family Services partners with MAC to oversee the Caregiver Scholarship application process. A limited number of scholarships are available for parents and caregivers. Scholarships will cover the registration cost for one parent or caregiver to attend the conference. The staff at ASK 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.

- Applicant Information (Page 3)
- Application Essay (Page 4)
- Signature (Page 4)

Directions for Application Submission:

Please submit all parts of your application by mail, fax, or email to:

Mail:

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 many days are you able to attend the conference if you receive a scholarship? (Check one)

- Two Days (Both Thursday and Friday)
 One day (Please circle one: Thursday OR Friday)

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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: _____ |

If you were awarded this scholarship, would travel be a barrier to your attendance?

- Yes No

If you were awarded this scholarship, would your work schedule be a barrier to your attendance?

- Yes No



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Application Essay

Please write a short essay (250-500 words) detailing the reason you are applying to attend the 2024 Michigan Autism Conference. **Please note:** each individual parent or caregiver must submit their own 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.
- How will this scholarship benefit you and your family?
- Why do you want to apply?

Application Criteria

To assist in your application submission, please review the criteria below that will be considered by the Scholarship Committee when determining awardees. Please reflect on these criteria when reviewing the completeness of your application and essay.

- The application is submitted by the deadline (Friday, August 23, 2024, by 5:00 pm EDT)
- The application is fully completed with all contact information included.
- The applicant has the means to attend the conference (i.e., lodging and work schedules will not be barriers to attend the conference).
- The applicant has not previously received funds from the Caregiver 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.

Signature

Please read the following carefully and sign before submission.

I affirm 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. 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: _____