



Autism Support – Focus Area

I. Mission Statement

To provide immediate, functional relief to autistic children and their families in the US, **starting with New Jersey**, by filling financial and resource gaps left by state systems and private insurance. Our goal is to empower the 'squeezed middle'—families who lack access to low-income subsidies but struggle with the high costs of specialized care.

II. Implementation Roadmap

Phase 1: Foundation & High-Impact/Low-Cost (Months 1–4)

- **IEP (Individualized Education Program) Advocacy Workshops:** Partnering with NJ legal experts to provide free workshops on Special Education law.
- **AAC Software Grants:** An AAC software grant is a financial award or donated package designed to fund Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems. **These grants are intended for children and adults who are nonverbal or have severe speech impairments due to conditions like autism, cerebral palsy, or Down syndrome.** Distributing digital licenses for communication software (e.g., Proloquo2Go) directly to parents.
- **Sensory Starter Kits:** Bulk-purchasing and distributing kits with noise-canceling headphones, weighted lap pads, and tactile fidgets.

Phase 2: Targeted Support (Months 5–10)

- **The Tablet Grant:** Providing hardware (iPads + Rugged Cases) for non-verbal children to use communication tools.
- **Insurance Gap-Funding:** Grants (\$500–\$1,000) to help families meet high annual insurance deductibles for ABA or OT.
- **Respite Voucher Pilot:** Providing 10–20 hours of pre-paid, trained childcare via NJ home-health agencies.

Phase 3: Institutional & Equipment Grants (Months 11–18)

- **Modular Sensory Stations:** Donating portable 'Sensory Carts' to public school special education classrooms in high-need NJ districts.
- **Summer Inclusion Scholarships:** Funding 1-on-1 shadow aides for children to attend local NJ summer camps.

Phase 4: Capital Projects (Year 2+)

The Mobile Sensory Unit (The Van): Procurement and custom conversion of a high-roof vehicle to serve as a mobile therapy zone for community events across New Jersey.

III. Selection & Eligibility Criteria

For Children & Families

- Confirmed ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) diagnosis (diagnosis from a licensed New Jersey practitioner).
- Financial Tier: Priority for household incomes between 250% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Waitlist Status: Preference for those on a 6+ month waiting list for state-funded **Children's System of Care** (CSOC) services.

For Supported Schools

- NJ State Certification: Must be an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities (APSSD).
- Staffing: Must maintain a student-to-staff ratio of no more than 3:1.
- Transparency: Equipment must be accessible to all qualifying students within the facility.

IV. Implementation & Governance

1. Intake: Launch a HIPAA-compliant portal for families to submit proof of need.
 2. Clinical Advisory Board: Form a committee of NJ-based BCBAs to vet grant applications.
 3. Financial Model: Adherence to a 90/10 spending model (90% to programs, 10% to overhead).
2. Potential partnership opportunities with other organizations such as [LetUsConnect Educational Services Commission of NJ](#), [Plainsboro Rotary Club](#) and others.