



Museum of Discovery and Science Awarded Grant from Florida Autism License Plate Proceeds

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (October 19, 2021) – The Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) received a grant from funds generated through the sale of the Florida “Support Autism Programs” specialty license plates. The grant will support MODS For All (Access to Lifelong Learning) accessibility and inclusivity initiatives at the Museum.

“We are honored to receive a grant from the Florida Autism License Plate administered by Arc Broward,” said Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO at MODS. “The Museum of Discovery and Science welcomes individuals from all walks of life to visit, experience, connect and discover inspiring science. We embody a culture of hospitality where diversity is celebrated. Our doors are open to everyone including individuals and families with special needs. We embrace our truly diverse community. All are welcome here.”

MODS will utilize the grant funding to provide:

- Free admission to non-profit autism organizations
- Backpacks with noise-cancelling headphones, assistive tools for making activities, calming objects, picture cards and maps available free for use in the Museum.
- A Museum-wide celebration of World Autism Awareness Day complete with Sensory-Friendly IMAX Screenings

“We ensure that families have access to accommodations when they visit AND feel a sense of belonging,” said Cox.

The Autism Services Grants Council awarded a total of \$124,160 in grants to 19 Florida-based nonprofit organizations that provide services and programs for individuals with autism and related disabilities. The funds available through grant opportunities offered by the Autism Services Grants Council, are generated through the sale of the Florida “Support Autism Programs” specialty license plates.

During the summer, Florida nonprofits were invited to submit grant proposals and nearly 70 nonprofits from across the state applied for funding. Priority was given to creative and innovative approaches to serving individuals with autism and their families. The grant must be utilized within 12 months beginning September 20, 2021.

In 2009, the Florida Legislature authorized the “Support Autism Services” specialty license plate and provided for the creation of the Autism Services Grants Council. The Council oversees a grants process to fund service programs for individuals with autism and related disabilities and their families throughout the state.

Through a partnership with the Indian River Tax Collector’s office the process of purchasing a specialty Autism License plate throughout Florida has been streamlined so it’s easier than ever to purchase your plate. You can go online or call the Indian River Tax Collectors office directly to purchase your plate from anywhere in the state.

For more information on the Florida “Support Autism Programs” specialty license plate, please visit autismlicenseplate.com. For more information about MODS programs, please visit mods.org.

ABOUT THE AUTISM SERVICES GRANTS COUNCIL:

In 2009, the Florida Legislature authorized the “Support Autism Services” [specialty autism license plate](http://autismlicenseplate.com) and provided for the creation of the Autism Services Grants Council (ASGC) to oversee a grants process to fund service programs for individuals with autism and related disabilities and their families throughout the state. All funds raised by the ASGC are generated by the sale of the Florida “Support Autism Programs” specialty license plates. For more information visit autismlicenseplate.com and “Like” us at facebook.com/AutismLicensePlate.

Arc Broward, a nationally accredited, Florida not-for-profit, Sect. 501(c)3 exempt organization, is responsible for marketing the Florida “Support Autism Programs” specialty license plate and administration of the Autism Services Grants Council.

ABOUT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE:

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. MODS connects people to inspiring science. The Museum encompasses more than 150,000 square feet of interactive exhibits. This includes all of our permanent and traveling exhibits, as well as our outdoor Science Park. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more. In addition to daily

hours, MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming. MODS' STEMobile delivers STEM education on location across South Florida! A STEMobile experience ranges from one-hour to full-day with programming for pre-kindergarten through adult and is available for schools, community centers, corporate team building and special events! All programs can be customized for time, group size and age group. Book a STEMobile visit today. Free programs and scholarships are available!

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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