

Autism Services Grants Council



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MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE AWARDED GRANT FROM AUTISM LICENSE PLATE

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (October 3, 2022) – 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 Sensory-Friendly Sundays at MODS.

The Autism Services Grants Council awarded a total of \$141,507 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.

“We are so grateful to receive this grant from the Autism Services Grants Council, which will ensure that families have access to a variety of sensory-based activities and feel a sense of belonging when they visit the Museum,” said **Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS**. “At MODS, inclusion and accessibility are at the core of who we are and what we aspire to be for this community.”

To provide a more sensory-sensitive environment for individuals on the autism spectrum, MODS opens an hour early on select Sundays for sensory-friendly Museum exploration and activities followed by an IMAX film. Museum guests also can participate in a variety of sensory-based activities that improve the processing, modulation and regulation of sensory input to increase participation in a natural environment.

During the summer, Florida nonprofits were invited to submit grant proposals and 86 nonprofits from across the state applied for funding. Priority was given to creative and innovative approaches to serving individuals with autism and their families.

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 the Museum of Discovery and Science 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 THE 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, providing STEM education and cultural experiences for 450,000+ visitors annually in the 150,000 sq. ft. facility. MODS is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) for three decades (only 3% of science museums are accredited for excellence and leadership in the field). In the past year, MODS has added to that distinction by being named Broward’s Hub for Resilience Education by the Board of the Community Foundation of Broward, selected by the LEGO Foundation as one of only 12 museums nationwide to join the Playful Learning Museum Network and was selected as one of 15 finalists for the prestigious 2022 IMLS National Medal for Museum Service.

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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