

April 16 deadline for Autism Delaware scholarship applications

March 19, 2018—NEWARK DE Autism Delaware is now accepting applications for three scholarships for the 2018–19 school year: the Autism Delaware Daniel and Lois Gray Memorial Scholarship, the Autism Delaware Adult with Autism Scholarship, and the Autism Delaware Autism Teacher Certification Scholarship.

Named for long-time advocates Daniel and Lois Gray, Autism Delaware's memorial scholarship provides financial support for students who are enrolled or accepted for matriculation at the University of Delaware and who intend to work in the field of autism in Delaware. Autism Delaware's scholarship for adults with autism provides financial support for eligible adults on the spectrum who are pursuing a post-secondary education. And Autism Delaware's certification scholarship provides financial support for teachers in Delaware's public and charter schools who wish to pursue an autism certification.

Applications for all three scholarships may be downloaded at <https://www.AutismDelaware.org/scholarships>. All applications are competitive, and the number of available scholarships depends upon the amount of available funding as well as assessment by Autism Delaware's scholarship review committee. Typically, the scholarship amount is \$1,000. To be considered, an application must be received by April 16, 2018.

About Autism Delaware and autism spectrum disorder

In 1998, a group of Delaware parents got together to share their common experience of autism. They began by supporting each other, sharing information, and creating a vision for a better future for all who are affected by autism in our state. Over the last 20 years, Autism Delaware has grown into an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit made up of individuals with ASD, their family members, the professionals who serve them, and friends of people with ASD. With offices in Newark, Dover, and Lewes, Autism Delaware serves the entire state. Celebrating our 20th anniversary this year—and the 10th anniversary of our adult employment program known as Productive Opportunities for Work & Recreation (or

POW&R, for short)—the agency’s mission continues to be to help people and families affected by ASD.

Autism Delaware’s programs and services are supported by state contracts and generous donations from individuals and corporations across Delaware. Fundraising events, such as the statewide Walk for Autism, help provide the income needed to make critical programs a reality. For more information on how to help, visit AutismDelaware.org.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that includes impairment in social interaction and social communication. Individuals with ASD also exhibit repetitive patterns of behavior or interest that limit everyday functioning. An intellectual or language impairment is also possible. All these symptoms will first appear in early childhood.

In the Delaware public school system, 152 students received an educational classification of autism in 1991, but for the 2017–18 school year, 2,109 students have the classification. This number omits the adults or children who are not currently being served by the school’s special-education system.