



AUTISM HACK-A-THON

2026

May 27th & 28th (In-Person or Virtual)

New York City and Virtual

Bring FS developers together to demonstrate how AI can transform services for autistic people who require lifetime, round-the-clock care by tackling real world use cases provided by families and creating lasting open-source projects for the community.



2026 USE CASE TOPICS

TOPIC 1: AI SUPPORTED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Direct intervention therapy, up to 30 hours a week, is crucial for those who require lifetime, round-the-clock care to stay safe, and become more independent, but issues of quality, transparency, consistency, and access persist. This topic reinvents the therapeutic environment using AI to help make learning more effective. A Digital Command Center captures multi-sensory data, helps therapists understand session dynamics, provides real-time support, and allows them to focus on the child or young adult.

TOPIC 2: PERSONALIZED AI FOUNDATION

AI offers great promise to improve the lives of those who require lifetime, round-the-clock care but every person is different. As the saying goes, "if you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism", every person is unique and the programs needed to enable them are as well. AI can provide that personalization as there is generally a mountain of information being collected through the course of their lives from diagnostic reports to psychoeducational evaluations to IEPs. AI can have a huge impact in helping with this challenge but how do we enable care givers and guardians to take advantage of this? We need a secure, responsible, and personalized foundation for multi-model and agentic support to truly bring this reality to life. This topic will take from the patterns large corporations have adopted and apply it to this challenge with the aim to improve individual outcomes and provide higher quality care and support over a lifetime.

TOPIC 3: AI ENABLED JOB SKILLING

Transitioning from school to the workforce is one of the biggest challenges for parents and caregivers, especially for those autistic people who require lifetime, round-the-clock care. If the unemployment rate is 85% for the general autism community, imagine the barriers for those with complex communication and support needs. Without work, what are their social opportunities beyond school? What can keep them engaged and living a meaningful and fulfilling life? This topic covers how AI can help to teach job skills, provide feedback, and enhancing scalability from 1:1 to 1:N support. It could incorporate mobile apps, augmented reality, etc.

TOPIC 4: AI FOR SAFE LIVING

Moving out of the family home is one of the most significant milestones for any adult, yet for those requiring round-the-clock care, independent living often feels out of reach. The alternative—institutional settings—can lack warmth and autonomy. This topic focuses on Semi-Independent Living, specifically "Shared Care" models where small groups of peers live together supported by a shared guardian or caregiver. The challenge is ensuring 24/7 safety without intrusive, constant human hovering. How can AI act as an invisible safety net? We are looking for solutions that utilize smart home sensors, predictive behavioral monitoring, and automated alert systems to detect elopement, health emergencies, or appliances left on. The goal is to maximize privacy and autonomy while ensuring that help is summoned the second it is needed.

TOPIC 5: EMPOWERING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS USING AI METAVERSE

Navigating social situations can be challenging, especially for those on the autism spectrum who struggle with reading social cues. This topic uses virtual reality and generative AI to create a scalable, safe environment for practicing social interactions, offering variety and feedback to help users improve their responses and build confidence. Infused with AI these experiences can be acutely tailored to the individual to maximize the outcome and help those who require lifetime, round-the-clock care to become more independent.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Please complete the 2026 Autism Hackathon registration form, and we'll contact you with further information.

<https://bit.ly/fsah26reg>

2026 FSI Autism Hackathon -
Registration

