



**People With Disabilities Foundation  
Grant Program  
Organization and Program Eligibility, Rev. 7/19/19**

**Grant Criteria**

People With Disabilities Foundation's (PWDF's) grant criteria are impact on beneficiaries, beneficiary needs, and organization financial needs related thereto.

**Grantee and Program Requirements**

To be eligible for a grant from PWDF, prospective grantees must meet the following organization and program requirements:

- Applicant organization must be an IRS approved § 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or must provide a very clear statement of service, impact and need for the grant,<sup>1</sup> for example a service to beneficiaries who are not old enough to be eligible for school district services based on age, e.g., under 5 years old;
- The organization must have been in operations a minimum of 3 years and provide documentation of same in the grant process, i.e., IRS form 990 for most recent 3 years. In lieu of IRS form 990, organization may send tax returns, profit and loss statements, and balance sheets for the most recent 3 years;
- Mission and program must be to benefit people with psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities;
- Organization's program currently must have direct contact with this population, either through advocacy, education, which may include destigmatization programs, or other relevant services;

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<sup>1</sup> PWDF does not fund governmental or public entities (states, local area governments, school districts, public universities, hospital districts, etc.), programs that receive substantial funding from these entities, or programs that public entities are legally required to fund.



- A maximum of 25% of the organization's expenses may be attributed to administrative expenses as documented on most recent IRS Form 990;
- For the pilot program, organization must be based in the United States.
- Program or project being proposed must have been in operations for 3 years or more. If the program is the same as an existing program, but in a new geographical location, then it is eligible for consideration. If the program is similar to but differs from programs that have been operating at least 3 years, then it depends on the specifics of the old and new program/project. PWDF will evaluate the new/different program or project upon receipt of program details.

### **What We Do Not Currently Fund**

Organizations and programs that are currently **not eligible** for grants include:

- PWDF generally will not fund organizations that have large budgets (e.g., over \$15 million) or resources (e.g., over \$20 million), however, this is subject to a rebuttable presumption; entities that demonstrate substantial evidence<sup>2</sup> of impact and need may be eligible, at PWDF's discretion.
- Endowments; 501(c)3 foundations set up specifically to obtain funding for public or private sector organizations; or other similar types of organizations that otherwise do not need this funding are not eligible.
- PWDF generally does not fund programs that receive funds from large benefactors and endowments, e.g., private foundations such as The Hewlett Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, etc.
- Organizations that do not currently provide any direct or indirect services through education or advocacy to people with psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities are not eligible.
- Programs or projects that duplicate work of other entities will not be eligible unless applicant provides clear and convincing evidence of need.

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<sup>2</sup> PWDF understands that this is a legal term.



- Programs or projects where there is concurrent jurisdiction with another entity accomplishing the same objectives will be ineligible if the problem is being or has been addressed.
- Even though a government agency may take longer to resolve the problem, the additional time required is not enough reason to qualify for a grant absent exigent circumstances.
- Programs that are contingent on obtaining licensing, permitting, or otherwise speculative are not eligible.
- PWDF does not provide grants for new or replacement equipment used in organization operations, including vans, furniture, IT, etc. Exceptions may be made if the equipment is related to a primary disability program purpose. An analogous example is that the US HHS, rather than the US EEOC, has employment jurisdiction if the employment is essential to an HHS program, e.g., a blind teacher for blind communication.
- PWDF does not provide grants for food, travel, lodging, scholarships, etc., for single-day or weekend events, e.g., conferences, community events, general advocacy and lobbying. Exceptions: we may fund certain self-advocacy for specific legislative purposes, e.g., meetings with legislative representatives or aides on the US House Subcommittee on Social Security for legislation that would allow claimants to obtain Social Security disability benefits pending appeal upon termination of benefits because of working, not just for medical improvement reviews.
- PWDF does not provide grants for organization reserve funds or fundraising activities.
- Grants are not available to individuals for their own treatment or services.