

PADDC Community Grants Program

Dear Applicant:

The PA Developmental Disabilities Council invites you to apply for funding from our Community Grants Program. These Community Grants are intended to bring together people with and without disabilities in a local community alliance to influence social change and improve the lives of members of the community.

Community Grant projects will have the following characteristics:

* People with developmental disabilities and/or their family members are active members who influence the group and project’s direction and participate in doing the project’s work. Actions should be completed **with** people with developmental disabilities, not *for* them.
* Project activities focus on making communities better for everyone. The initiative is not about specialized responses to disability but engaging people who care about working together on local issues of common interest. This means learning to listen carefully to fellow citizens who are outside the circle of those primarily concerned with disability – as well as those who are – in order to discover what issues people care about enough to take action together.
* Over time, projects build up local capacity for collective action by creating and strengthening continuing relationships with a variety of associations and groups. The initiative is not about single victories but building communities where people have a growing capacity to act together.
* Projects support ways for people with developmental disabilities to do the work of active citizenship and makes what they have found available to other communities.

We are interested in work which develops “generic” change – providing benefits to people with disabilities in settings which are the same as those available to the regular community, and, if necessary, changing that generic community to meet the needs of people with disabilities in ways that affirm the status of people with disabilities as full and equal members. We also strongly believe that the work of “disability competence” is closely allied with the work of doing other forms of cultural competence.

For information on our beliefs and the type of projects we have funded in the past, please see [www.paddc.org](http://www.paddc.org).

These grants are intended to support short term projects of up to 18 months and bidders can request funding in amounts up to $10,000. To apply, please write or email us with a brief statement of the following:

1. Who you are
2. What problem you are trying to address
3. How you are trying to address it, and
4. How this relates to the Council’s values and/or past efforts

Your Intent Letter of 1 to 2 pages can be submitted electronically or by postal mail no later than **3:00 pm EST on Friday, February 7, 2020**. If submitting electronically, send your application to ra-pwpaddc@pa.gov

Please note:

* **We cannot accept electronic documents saved on third party file sharing sites such as Google Docs.**
* Make sure that your electronic file name includes **unique identifying information. Example: “ABCD User” 2020 Letter of Intent**

If submitting by postal mail, send your letter to:

PA Developmental Disabilities Council, 2330 Vartan Way, Suite 130, Harrisburg, PA 17110

*ATTENTION: COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM*

A set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), along with an accompanying PowerPoint, will be posted to the Council’s web site under the “Grants & Funding” tab. We hope that this information will assist you in the preparation of your grant application. You also may submit additional questions in writing until **11:00 AM on January 31, 2020**. Written answers to the questions submitted will be posted on the web site **as soon as possible, but no later than close of business, January 31, 2020.**

All Letters of Intent will be reviewed to determine if they best meet the purposes of the Council. The “finalists” will be notified by mail and receive a final application packet for submission. In addition to your final application, you will be required to attend a webinar before submitting your full final proposal.

We look forward to reading your ideas for this Grants Program. If you have questions concerning this application process, or would like to receive this packet in an alternative format, please contact me at 717-772-4127 or ra-pwpaddc@pa.gov

 Sincerely,

 David Golin

 Project Officer