

PADDC Community Grants Program

Dear Applicant:

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PADDC) invites you to apply for funding from our Community Grants Program. We will be accepting applications on a rolling basis, meaning you can apply at any time. 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 performing 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. This 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 both inside as well as outside the circle of those primarily concerned with disability to discover what issues people care about enough to take action together.
* Project outcomes are expected to align with PADDC’s new State Plan. Each project proposal should describe how their work will contribute toward advancing one of the four overarching goals of self-determination, social and system change, community living, and self-advocate leadership. The projects will supplement, not supplant the Request for Application work planned in those goal areas.
* Over time, projects build local capacity for collective action by creating and strengthening continuing relationships with a variety of associations and groups. This initiative is not about single victories but rather, 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 the knowledge/outcomes available to other communities.

We are interested in work that develops generic change–providing benefits to people with disabilities in settings that are the same as those available to the community-at-large, 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 other forms of cultural competence.

For information on our beliefs, the types of projects we have funded in the past, and our 2022-2026 five-year plan, please visit [www.paddc.org](http://www.paddc.org).

These grants are intended to support short term projects of between 6-18 months and bidders can request up to $20,000. If awarded, a 25 percent local match will be required. For example, if a grant of $20,000 is awarded, the local match would be $6,667.

To apply, email a brief letter of intent that includes the following:

1. Name of your organization
2. Problem you are trying to address
3. Steps you propose to address the problem
4. Summary of how your proposal aligns with Council’s values and current five-year plan

Your intent letter of 1-2 pages must be submitted electronically to [ra-pwpaddcrfa@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pwpaddcrfa@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” 2021 letter of intent**

A set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is posted on the Council’s web site under the Grants & Funding→Year Round Funding Opportunities tabs. We hope that this information will assist you in the preparation of your grant application.

All letters of intent will be reviewed to determine if they best meet the purposes of Council. The finalists will be notified by email and receive a final application packet for submission. In addition to your final application, you will be required to view the community grants webinar before submitting your full final proposal. The full proposals will be scored and evaluated by a review team to determine whether funding will be awarded.

We look forward to reading your ideas. If you have questions concerning this application process, or would like to receive this in an alternative format, please contact Council staff at 717-787-6057 or [ra-pwpaddcrfa@pa.gov](mailto:ra-pwpaddcrfa@pa.gov)