



PADDCC COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. *What is a developmental disability?*

Answer: The federal definition of developmental disabilities, from the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (The DD Act) identifies developmental disability as a substantial physical or mental impairment impacting functioning in three or more major life area activities, and 22 or younger as when the disability occurred.

2. *Can people with other disabilities be involved in the project?*

Answer: Yes. However, people with developmental disabilities must be actively involved in the planning, directing, and work of completing the project.

3. *What is generic social change?*

Answer: Rather than build special programs and services for people with disabilities, we believe everyday systems and communities should change to accommodate all society's members. You must describe how your project will affect and change the generic community (the systems and services that exist for all people).

4. *Can a nonprofit agency partner with our local college?*

Answer: Yes. One organization must take the lead as the grantee. The other organization would be a sub-grantee or contracted entity and be paid through the grantee. There must be one legally responsible party for the grant. The lead agency will need the following to contract with the state:

- State vendor number: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/budget/programs-and-services-for-people-doing-business-with-the-commonwealth/for-vendors>, AND,
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): <https://sam.gov/entity-registration>

5. *Can our project fund direct services?*

Answer: No. Federal law states that Developmental Disabilities Councils are not allowed to fund direct services, except in limited circumstances. Because of time and funding limits, Community Grants cannot fund services.

6. *What types of projects is the PADDCC likely to fund?*

Answer: The Council supports and funds many types of projects. For example:

- Advocate with local government officials,
- Organize events to raise awareness or advocate for change,
- Collaboration among community groups,
- Provide training and education,
- Partner with everyday businesses or advocate with people with developmental disabilities to change your community,

- Organize meetings, focus groups, networking, listening sessions, community conversations,
- Production of training or resource materials,
- Make local meetings accessible and welcoming to everyone,
- Arrange new inclusive opportunities in your community.

7. *How long is the grant period?*

Answer: The grant period is 12 months. You are welcome to propose work that can be completed in a shorter timeframe, but no work can be conducted beyond 12 months.

8. *Can we buy tools for grant participants to work with?*

Answer: It depends. Tools may be considered an allowable expense depending on the type of tool and how it will be used. However, buying equipment – particularly major equipment – are not allowed.

9. *Can faith-based organizations apply?*

Answer: Yes. However, Council funds cannot be used to pay for religious activities or faith-based instruction.

10. *Are there any restrictions on what the budget can cover?*

Answer: We cannot pay for direct service, construction projects, lobbying, entertainment, alcohol, or incentives such as gift cards, awards and prizes.

11. *Can our budget be less than \$20,000?*

Answer: Yes. The maximum amount you can request is \$20,000. You can request less if that amount is not needed for your project. But there is no benefit for undercutting costs. No extra points are given for asking for less.

12. *Can we build a ramp or repair facilities that support people with developmental disabilities?*

Answer: No, construction is not an allowable expense.

13. *Are there geographic required minimums (example 1 county) or maximums (example 8 counties)?*

Answer: There is no minimum or maximum size of the area where your project will take place, except that it must be in Pennsylvania.

14. *Can I FAX my documents?*

Answer: No. You must email your interest letter and application to:

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: "ABC Organization - GC Application".