



**Borealis Philanthropy  
Disability Inclusion Fund  
COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund  
Request for Proposals**

**Current Context**

The COVID-19 virus is having an immediate and alarming impact on the community of people with disabilities. Safe attendant care and the absence of attendants who are sheltering in place has put the community at risk. People with a history of mental health disabilities are experiencing increased anxiety, amplification of symptoms, and isolation. Access to resources and support organizations has been curtailed. People without sight have the challenge of accessing their community safely. This is only a small sampling of the many concerns and vast vulnerabilities for people with disabilities.

There are significant local, state, and national policy implications for people with disabilities as a result of the COVID-19 virus. There are reports of rationing of medical treatments and for this community to be seen as less worthy of life saving intervention. It is imperative that these issues be addressed quickly and thoughtfully to influence the decisions being made by government and health institutions. Policy and procedure will save lives.

Through this rapid response opportunity, [the Disability Inclusion Fund](#) will provide support for organizations on the front lines serving people with disabilities during this crisis. This will include mutual aid and support for organizing, policy, and systems-change advocacy.

While this rapid response fund was prompted by the pandemic, we recognize that meaningful, long-term investment in disability inclusion and justice efforts is long overdue. The Disability Inclusion Fund, in partnership with the [Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy](#), has launched a \$10M, 5-year Fund that supports U.S. groups run by and for disabled people to lead transformational change. More information on how to apply for ongoing support from the DIF will be announced in the summer.

This rapid response funding will be guided by the following values:

**Guiding Values**

- **Participation:** Movement funding accountable to the disability rights movement. Those impacted by injustice/exclusion should be involved in strategies to advance justice/inclusion.
- **Intersectionality:** Disability is shaped by race, gender, class, gender expression, etc.



- **Radical inclusion:** Deeply committed to removing barriers and ensuring access so that those most affected by intersecting identities can participate, valuing lived experience.
- **Leadership of those most impacted:** Emphasis given to organizations led by disabled people of color, queer and gender nonconforming and women with disabilities.
- **Cross-movement solidarity:** Intentional focus on collaboration and bridge-building amongst disability justice activists and across movements

### **Criteria and Eligibility**

- Groups that demonstrate alignment with the DIF guiding values.
- Requests from community-based and disability-led organizations will be prioritized, particularly but not exclusively communities whose access to resources and critical supports are experiencing greater instability related to COVID-19.
- Requests that support mutual aid, advocacy, and/or policy needs for people with disabilities in response to COVID-19 that are not easily funded by an organization's current funding base will be prioritized.

### **Application Process, Amounts, Timeline, FAQ**

- Applicants may request up to \$15,000. Final amounts will be determined based on the nature of the request and available resources.
- Applications can be submitted starting April 22, 2020. The submission due date is May 6, 2020.
- We will review grant submissions and anticipate making grant notifications and payments within two weeks from date of submission.
- Please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

The DIF is committed to responding as quickly as possible and to making all applications materials available in multiple forms to be accessible to all.

You can access the application here: [borealisphilanthropy.force.com](https://borealisphilanthropy.force.com). Other accessible application formats include: Google Forms, large print, video interview or phone interview. To obtain and complete application in alternative formats please contact Disability Inclusion Fund at [dif@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:dif@borealisphilanthropy.org) or by phone at (510) 255-9249.