



## **COVID-19 Rapid Response Grants: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Disability Inclusion Fund?**

Housed at [Borealis Philanthropy](#), the Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) is a \$10M, 5-year Fund that supports U.S. groups run by and for disabled people to lead transformational change. The fund is supported by the President's Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy, comprised of foundation presidents who are committed to disability inclusion as part of improving diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **What are the objectives of the DIF?**

- Strengthen the disability community/movement by building the power of representative organizations and elevating the voices of disabled people within public life.
- Boost the capacity of disability justice groups to fundraise, communicate a more unified narrative and other priorities as determined by the group's advisors.
- Build bridges between disability justice groups to learn from one another, complement and strengthen advocacy and mobilization approaches.
- Promote collaboration and partnership between disability-led organizations and "mainstream" organizations.
- Support disability inclusion in philanthropy with collaborative learning around programmatic and operational inclusion.

### **What are the guiding values of the DIF?**

- 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.

### **Which are the foundations that support the DIF?**

Currently the DIF is supported by 17 foundations: the Ford Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Open Society Foundations, NoVo Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the Kresge Foundation, the Ruderman Family Foundation, the California Endowment, the John D and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the New York Women's Foundation, the Heinz Endowments, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, WITH Foundation, and Anonymous Donors.

### **What type of grant support will DIF provide for rapid response requests?**

The DIF has earmarked \$200,000 of its year one grantmaking budget for COVID-19 rapid response. Due to the current economic and health crisis related to COVID-19, these grants will be general operating support rather than project grants to allow organizations maximum flexibility to respond to rapidly changing and unforeseen needs and circumstances.

### **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.

### **How much funding can I request from the DIF Rapid Response?**

DIF applicants can request a maximum of \$15,000 to support their COVID-19 efforts.

### **How and when can organizations apply to the DIF Rapid Response?**

The DIF Rapid Response application is available now through May 6, 2020. You are invited to submit a proposal online via the grant portal by the May 6, 2020 application deadline (see grant portal information below). We will also be accepting applications in other accessible application formats including: Google Forms, large print, video interview or phone interview. To obtain and complete the application in alternative formats, please contact the Disability Inclusion Fund at [dif@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:dif@borealisphilanthropy.org) or by phone at (510) 255-9249.

### **How do I submit my application through the Borealis grant portal?**

You can go to the Borealis Philanthropy grant portal at [borealisphilanthropy.force.com](https://borealisphilanthropy.force.com) to start a grant application. We strongly recommend you use Google Chrome for best results.

The registration process will involve providing information about your organization (including but not limited to executive and finance contacts and your fiscal sponsor information if applicable), and your organization's payment preferences. Currently, we offer ACH/direct deposit payment and paper check payment. ACH/direct deposit payment is faster than paper check payment. The bank account information you enter to set this up will be stored securely and is visible only to our Finance Team.

**If you have previously applied for or received a Borealis grant** please contact our Grants Management Team at [grants@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:grants@borealisphilanthropy.org). A member of the Borealis Grants Management Team will assist you with creating a portal account in our new system. Please include "DIF applicant" in the subject line of your email.

**If you are new to Borealis and have never previously applied for a grant**, you will need to self-register for an account on our new portal. Please follow the instructions in [this guide: \(https://sites.google.com/borealisphilanthropy.org/forgrantees/borealis-grantee-training-manual#h.p\\_7JdKzv3Vihh3\)](https://sites.google.com/borealisphilanthropy.org/forgrantees/borealis-grantee-training-manual#h.p_7JdKzv3Vihh3) to self-register. If you have any questions about self-registration or encounter issues during the registration process, please contact our Grants Management Team at [grants@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:grants@borealisphilanthropy.org). Please include "DIF NEW applicant" in the subject line of your email.

### **Where can the application be accessed?**

Log in to our grants portal at [borealisphilanthropy.force.com](https://borealisphilanthropy.force.com). Once you are logged in, you will be taken to the "Grantee Dashboard" section. At the top of the page, click the "Explore Grant Opportunities" tab. You will see a list of available open application opportunities. Click on the "2020 DIF RR Y1" link to begin your application.

### **When will funding decisions be made on applications submitted by May 6, 2020?**

Applicants who submit proposals by the May 6, 2020 deadline will be notified about whether or not their project will be funded by May 22, 2020. Projects that are approved for funding will receive their grant awards within two weeks of notification of approval.

**Will the DIF have other grantmaking opportunities this year?**

Yes, we will release another RFP (request for proposals) for the remaining year one funds this summer. To sign up for our mailing list and receive that announcement, please sign up at <http://bit.ly/borealisupdates>.