



**Borealis Philanthropy  
Disability Inclusion Fund  
Request for Proposal 2020**

**About Borealis Philanthropy**

Borealis Philanthropy works as a partner to philanthropy, helping grantmakers expand their reach and impact. Our primary work includes managing donor collaboratives where numerous funders come together to pool resources that support a variety of issues, communities, and movements. Borealis currently has 10 donor collaboratives, including the Disability Inclusion Fund.

**About the Disability Inclusion Fund**

**The Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) is a \$10M, 5-year Fund (2020 – 2025) that supports U.S.-based groups run by and for people with disabilities to lead transformational change.** The Fund is supported by the [Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy](#), which is composed of foundation presidents who are committed to disability inclusion as part of improving diversity, equity, and inclusion within philanthropy.

The Disability Inclusion Fund utilizes a participatory grantmaking process. All grantees will be selected by a grantmaking committee of five disability activists and five funders.

**All Disability Inclusion Funding will be aligned by the DIF guiding values of:**

- **Participation:** Movement funding accountable to the disability rights movement. Those impacted by injustice/exclusion should be involved in strategies to advance justice/inclusion.
- **Intersectionality:** Acknowledging that disabled people have multiple and intersecting social and political identities that can influence their ability to have access and inclusion including race, gender identity, class, sexual orientation.
- **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 is given to organizations led by disabled people of color, queer, gender nonconforming and women with disabilities.



- **Cross-movement solidarity:** Intentional focus on collaboration and bridge-building amongst disability justice activists and across movements

### **What we fund**

We will prioritize funding organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Organizations that are disability-led with priority towards Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), queer and gender non-conforming and women disability-led organizations. We define 'disability led' as the leadership in your organization are people with disabilities. This includes management staff/advisory committees/governing boards should be majority persons with a disability.
- Work that engages other social movements and injustices for example Black lives matter, climate change, immigration rights, labor rights, racial justice etc.
- Work that brings other organizations, leaders, movements and communities together to build relationships, coalitions and opportunities for collaboration.
- Work that celebrates, creates and uplifts the representation of disabled people in the arts, media, education, literature, work with youth etc
- Work that moves practices of disability inclusion and disability justice forward. Examples of this work includes community organizing, advocacy and/or policy work.

### **Eligibility**

- Your organization budget cannot exceed \$1.5 million
- Your organization must be U.S based or U.S. territories based 501(c)3 organizations, fiscally sponsored and LLC ([see FAQs for definitions](#))

### **What we cannot support:**

- Organizations that are non U.S based or non U.S. Territories
- Individuals
- Universities
- Hospitals
- Organizations or projects that only provide direct service (i.e. home health agency or wheelchair supply company etc). Organizations or projects that



provide direct services are eligible only if they also engage in community organizing, advocacy and/or policy work.

### **Levels of Support**

The DIF will provide one year grants. We expect to distribute approximately 25 grants. The grants we offer will be general operating support or program support and will range in size from \$50,000- \$100,000.

### **Grantmaking Process**

If you previously applied for and or received a COVID-19 Rapid Response grant, you are still eligible to apply. Please be aware that eligibility requirements for this application are different.

**The deadline for proposals is September 16th by 9 pm PST or midnight EST.** We will be hosting an information webinar on September 1st at 10am PST/1pm EST to review the application process and answer applicant questions. Please [register for the webinar here](#).

### **Contact**

- If you have questions, need technical assistance, or have technology issues in submitting your application please email [grants@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:grants@borealisphilanthropy.org)
- If you have questions about what we fund or eligibility for grants please email [DIF@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:DIF@borealisphilanthropy.org)

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

We have put together answers to frequently asked questions, which include the list of proposal questions. [Read the FAQs](#).

### **Application Access**

The DIF is committed to making all application materials available in multiple forms to be accessible to all.



You may access the application by signing into our Salesforce portal: [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 an application in alternative formats, please email us at [dif@borealisphilanthropy.org](mailto:dif@borealisphilanthropy.org).

### **Expenditure Responsibility**

All potential grantees that are non-501c3 organizations—that is, for-profit entities—including sole proprietors, LLC, and corporations, will be required to take a few additional steps in order to ensure the grant funds are being used for charitable purposes. These steps include:

- As part of the grant application, provide evidence of other grants private or public sector to the organization. This can be a list of past grants made to your organization, for what purpose, and at what amount.
- After a grant is made, grant funds must be in separate bookkeeping accounts.
- Grantee reporting will be the same for non-501c3 and 501c-3 grantees.
- As part of the grant application, provide articles of incorporation, tax classification or certification.