The Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) is a $13 million, five-year fund housed at Borealis Philanthropy to support U.S. groups run by and for people with disabilities to lead transformational change. The DIF is a first-of-its-kind fund; we are the only fund working on disability inclusion in philanthropy. The fund is supported by the President’s Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy, which is comprised of foundation presidents who are committed to disability inclusion as part of improving diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Since its inception in 2020, the DIF has:

- Provided $2.2 million to 22 disability justice, inclusion, and rights organizations
- Granted $225,000 in COVID-related rapid response funding to 15 organizations, from mutual aid to those focusing on advocacy and policy.
- Implemented a participatory grantmaking approach to ensure that funding is accountable to the disability rights and justice movement, with seven incredible disability justice advocates on the grantmaking committee.

Fighting for Disability Justice, Rights, and Inclusion

The DIF seeks to:

- **Strengthen the disability community/movement** by building the power of representative organizations and elevating the voices of people with disabilities within public life
- **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
Nothing About Us, Without Us

**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.

"Historically, disabled-led organizations, groups, and collectives have experienced outright exclusion, and/or perfunctory recognition at best from foundation support despite the breadth of social, political, cultural, and movement legacies that have contributed to the knowledge of well-being and justice in our society. The DIF plays a role in reversing this historical trend — while lifting up wisdom from the field — and presents an opportunity for philanthropic foundations to heed purposeful guidance from disabled-led organizations and groups.

— SANDY HO, DISABILITY COMMUNITY-ORGANIZER, ACTIVIST, AND DISABILITY POLICY RESEARCHER"

The DIF prioritizes support for:

- **Organizations that are disability-led** with priority towards Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), queer and gender non-conforming, and women disability-led organizations.

- **Intersectional, cross-movement and cross-issue work**

- **Relationship- and power-building work** that brings other groups, leaders, movements and communities together

- **Work that celebrates, creates, and uplifts the representation of people with disabilities** in the arts, media, education, literature, and popular culture

- **Community organizing, advocacy, and/or policy work**, or other work that moves ideas and practices of disability inclusion and disability justice forward

To learn more about the Disability Inclusion Fund, please email dif@borealisphilanthropy.org.