



DISABILITY RIGHTS

DENVER HUMAN RIGHTS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Disability Community Support Grants

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Request for Proposals Released: Monday, January 23, 2023

Application Deadline: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Questions Due: Monday, February 6, 2023

Questions Answered: Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Award Notification: March 13, 2023

Program Delivery End Date: 12/31/2025 or sooner

BACKGROUND

The Denver Division of Disability Rights (“Disability Rights”) is housed within the Mayor’s Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships (HRCP). HRCP’s unique history began in 1947 when newly elected Mayor J. Quigg Newton formed the “Committee on Human Relations” to set himself in opposition to the legacy of prejudice instilled by his predecessor, Benjamin F. Stapleton – a known member of the Ku Klux Klan. Over the years and decades, the Committee on Human Relations became HRCP and, in 1984, even before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), what is now known as the Division of Disability Rights was created within HRCP. Almost four decades later, Disability Rights is thriving and working with city agencies and the disability community to help Denver become and remain a fully accessible and inclusive city.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionately negative impact on the disability community and, according to a recent study performed by the National Council on Disability (https://bit.ly/NCD_Report), COVID-19 led to people with disabilities being denied adequate physical and mental health care, not receiving transition or direct care services to move out or remain out of institutions, being denied necessary in-person special education services and supports, and not being able to obtain or maintain stable employment.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has had lasting negative impacts on nonprofit organizations that provide a vital role in providing services and support to many underserved populations. Many nonprofits are grappling with how to support their communities while also trying to survive as an organization. Nonprofits across the United States have reported operational fallout from the pandemic, including weakened revenue streams and heightened demand for services and supports.
([https://bit.ly/NCBI NIH Article](https://bit.ly/NCBI_NIH_Article))

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

To help address these issues and with funding provided by the US Treasury Department's American Rescue Plan Act, Disability Rights is seeking funding proposals from Denver disability-oriented nonprofit organizations which have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal of this funding is to assist nonprofits that serve the disability community in closing service gaps and to re-establish service levels to and beyond pre-pandemic levels through advocacy, direct services and supports, and assistive technology and training.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to receive this funding, the nonprofit must:

- Serve or advocate for and with the disability community
- Be located in Denver or primarily serve Denver residents
- Provide evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused organizational financial hardship

FUNDING FOCUS AREAS

Disability Rights is seeking proposals from nonprofits that are requesting funding for one (or more) of the below categories:

- **Advocacy for people with disabilities:** Advocacy can include legal or non-legal advocacy at the systemic or individual level. Funds may not be used for lobbying efforts.
- **Direct services and supports:** Organizations may seek funding to support direct service provision, such as peer counseling, benefits counseling, youth services, housing assistance, education and

training for individuals with disabilities, vocational assistance, or similar direct services.

- **Assistive Technology & Training.** Organizations may seek funding to purchase training or assistive technology to use to support their services to individuals with disabilities, to purchase training or devices directly for individuals with disabilities, to provide training to staff or others about working with people with disabilities, or other similar services.

FUNDING REQUEST AMOUNTS

Proposals will be accepted for grant requests up to \$50,000.

QUESTIONS

All questions regarding this request for proposal should be submitted in writing and emailed to jessica.jorgensen@denvergov.org by Monday, February 6, 2023. Answers to questions will be posted via HRCP's [funding opportunities webpage](#) no later than close of business February 8, 2023.

AWARD SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a selection committee comprised of individuals from the Division of Disability Rights and at least one member of the disability community.

One (1) electronic copy of the proposal and any supporting documents must be submitted in response to the RFP. Please submit proposals via email to alison.butler@denvergov.org. The RFP name and number must be included in the subject line of the email.

AWARD SELECTION CRITERIA

All applications should be complete and address the following points:

- Clear description of what the funding will provide/accomplish
- Clear and justifiable budget revenues and expenses
- Contain creative, innovative, and realistic goals
- Potential to strengthen organizational capacity
- Potential to strengthen the disability community
- Possess evidence of community involvement in project implementation. Have evidence of leveraging community resources (cash, in-kind, or volunteers).

- The organization's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in its hiring, structure, and provision of services. The EDI commitment should include the value of independence and interdependence of people living with disabilities.

Proposals with the highest scores will be awarded funding through a contract with the City and County of Denver. Please note that while funding amounts may be requested, the final award amount will be decided on by the selection committee.

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Language access planning is a requirement for awarded organizations. If 5% or 1,000 people, whichever is lower, of low English proficiency populations are served through the awarded program, a language access plan will be required. This plan could include interpretation at meetings, translation of vital documents, and real-time, over the phone translation. The City and County of Denver has vendors selected to help provide this service or the selected organization will be able to use the vendor of its choosing. Please include language interpretation and translation line items in the budget you submit with your proposal. This will be incorporated into the final scope of work of your contract. Disability Rights program staff will be available to help provide more guidance on the details and requirements and will be available to help put the plan together in partnership.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

One (1) electronic copy of the proposal and any supporting documents must be submitted in response to the RFP. Please submit proposals via email to alison.butler@denvergov.org. The RFP name and number must be included in the subject line of the email.

Disability Community Support Request for Proposals Application

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1. Organization Name:

2. Address:

3. Email Address:

4. Telephone Number:

5. Organization Mission Statement:

6. Populations/Neighborhoods Served:

7. Total Amount Requested:

Please provide a scope of work outlining the services that will be provided using this funding. Please complete all of the following sections.

8. Project/Program Description Summary (two to three paragraphs max):

9. Neighborhoods Served:

10. Program Description (Narrative mission, vision, history, description of what the funds aim to achieve):

11. Program Services (Program specifics - be detailed here. Include target population, location and demographic service area, detailed schedule, milestones, key activities, etc.):

12. Budget/budget narrative (Please provide a detailed line-item budget. Feel free to include the budget as a separate document if that's easier):

13. Project Goals/Objectives (What are the goals of this project? How will you know if you've been successful?):

14. Future Plans (Do you intend to sustain and build upon the outcomes of this project? Describe follow up envisioned, and whether the work will continue