Advancing Disability Justice Grants

Introduction

Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) and the Collins Foundation seek to support Disability Justice leaders in our region by providing grants for community building, civic engagement, community organizing, cultural work, leadership development, movement building or policy advocacy. Advancing Disability Justice Grants are available to community groups, community leaders, organizations or coalitions in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Applicants must be Black, Indigenous or people of color (BIPOC). Applicants must live with some kind of disability or neurodivergency.

- Grants are available for up to $5,000 each. NWHF has $25,000 total to award.
- Application Deadline: Thursday, April 30, 2020 @ 12pm PST
- NWHF encourages all interested organizations to speak with our team before submitting an application.
  - Please contact Jen Matheson at jen@northwesthealth.org or 971-230-1292.
- If you need help submitting your application, please contact Jen.
- Visit us online to learn more about our Advancing Disability Justice work.

Disability Justice

Disability Justice is a movement framework that centers queer and transgender disabled people of color. It has ten principles: intersectionality, leadership of those most impacted, anti-capitalist politic, cross-movement solidarity, recognizing wholeness, sustainability, commitment to cross-disability solidarity, interdependence, collective access and collective liberation.

You can learn more about Disability Justice by visiting Sins Invalid at https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/disability-justice-a-working-draft-by-patty-berne

Background

Too often racism, ableism, and the places we call home prevent us from living the life we deserve. At Northwest Health Foundation, we are committed to ending this reality. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to lead a healthy life, however they define health. We also believe that, by advancing equity, we can improve the social,
political and bodymind health of our whole region. That is why NWHF chose three equity priorities — race/ethnicity (including immigrant and refugee status), disability and geography — to guide all of our work.

In 2017, Northwest Health Foundation and the Collins Foundation convened the Disability Justice Leaders Collaborative (DJLC). The DJLC brought 16 disabled Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) together for a series of day-long, in-person/virtual meetings to build relationships, learn about the Disability Justice framework, and discuss how the voices and experiences of people with disabilities are (or aren’t) represented by decision-makers in Oregon and Southwest Washington. In addition to being disabled BIPOC, Collaborative leaders also identified as queer, gender non-conforming, youth, houseless, immigrant, refugee, and rural, among other intersecting social identities. This group of individuals worked together to create a guiding document with action steps for allies: Recommendations for Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon and SW Washington. This document provides a set of recommendations for organizations interested in supporting Disability Justice work and addressing barriers faced by disabled leaders of color.

These recommendations led us to launch our Advancing Disability Justice initiative with the Collins Foundation, which includes Disability Justice workshops for culturally-specific and racial justice organizations, mentorship and coaching for DJLC leaders, and the Advancing Disability Justice Grants.

**Funding**

The Advancing Disability Justice Grants will support disabled BIPOC leaders in our region to build their capacity for community building and civic engagement work. This can include, but is not limited to, leadership development, organizational or group capacity building around Disability Justice, cultural programming, movement building work, community organizing and/or policy advocacy. Funds can be used for staff time, participant stipends, food, gatherings, accommodations, travel, childcare, etc. Examples of potential projects include, but are not limited to:

- Bringing Disability Justice leaders together to discuss community needs
- Hosting a community event to educate on Disability Justice issues
- Hosting a cultural event
- Hosting a leadership development training

NWHF will provide one-time grants for up to $5,000 for new or existing projects. We’re happy to receive applications for smaller amounts. We will support short-term, long-term and one-time projects. Grant funds must be spent by June 2021. Applicants will be asked to submit a brief report at the end of the grant period. Staff may also request a site visit to learn more about your work.
Eligibility

Applicants must be a tax-exempt organization or a tribal agency engaging communities in Oregon or Southwest Washington (Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties), or acting under fiscal sponsorship of a tax-exempt organization. If your organization is not incorporated or fiscally sponsored, please reach out to us and we can talk with you about options to apply for fiscal sponsorship.

Applicants must agree to the following Statement of Non-discrimination: I certify that our organization does not discriminate in its leadership, staffing or service on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, sex, marital status, political opinion, familial status, national origin, age, gender, mental or physical disability, disability status, sexual orientation, military status, gender identity or source of income.

Northwest Health Foundation asks applicants to identify as multicultural, cross-racial, culturally-specific, and/or disability-led. Learn more about these terms.

Projects should focus on the following criteria:

- Projects should be led by and focus on disabled Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).
- Priority will be given to projects led by participants of the Disability Justice Leaders Collaborative.
- Projects should focus on building capacity or work related to community building, civic engagement, community organizing, cultural work, leadership development, movement building or policy advocacy by disabled BIPOC.
  - Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of one’s community and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political processes.
- Project values should align with the Disability Justice Principles.
- Applicants must be affiliated, working in partnership, or fiscally sponsored by an organization with 501(c)(3) status. If your project does not have 501(c)(3) status or a fiscal sponsor yet, see below for more information.
- Grant funds must be spent by June 2021. Your project may be completed before then. We will support short-term, long-term and one-time projects.
Fiscal Sponsorship

We recognize not all groups, coalitions or community leaders have an official status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We still encourage you to apply. To receive the funds these applicants will need to identify a fiscal sponsor who can receive 501(c)(3) funds. This can be an organization you already have a relationship or partnership with, but it doesn’t have to be.

If your group does not have its own nonprofit status or a nonprofit partner, we recommend you apply for fiscal sponsorship. A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects. While fiscal sponsorship doesn’t need to be formalized in order to apply for this grant, we encourage you to contact the organization ahead of time to see if they might be a good fit.

Included here are a couple organizations who fiscally sponsor community-led projects. These organizations have staff who can help you through their application process:

- Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition: https://www.seuplift.org/fiscal-sponsorship/
- Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs: http://saveourplanet.org/become-a-project/
- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon: Email sue.day@apano.org with the subject line “Fiscal Sponsorship Request.”

How to Apply for an Advancing Disability Justice Grant

Before you submit an application, schedule a conversation with NWHF Director of Programs Jen Matheson (contact information at the top of this document). We are happy to talk by phone, text or email. This can help you determine if your project is a good fit.

We recognize individuals have different needs, so we are open to accepting applications in whatever way works best for you.

- [NWHF Grant Portal](#) - You can submit your application using our [Grantee Portal](#). To do so, you must register to access our Grantee Portal by creating a new user account (unless you already have an account). It can take up to two business days to process new user account requests.
The further in advance you register, the more time you will have to complete the application. If you register the day before the application is due, you may miss your submission deadline.

The online grant portal is not screen reader accessible. Please contact us to submit your application via email or phone.

- By Email - You can submit your application by email and respond to the application questions in written form, either directly in the email or as an attachment.

- Or, let us know if you need another way to submit your application (e.g. phone, text, etc.)

Applicants will be required to submit information describing the communities served by the organization, as well as the demographic makeup of the staff and board, if they are part of a nonprofit organization.

**Demographic Questions:**

1. Which counties will be directly served by your organization?

2. Will the communities that benefit from this project be 51% or more:
   - Communities of Color
   - Persons with Disabilities
   - Immigrant or Refugee
   - A combination of the above (select which groups)
   - None of the above

3. Who will be served by the proposed activities? How would these communities identify themselves? Use the picklist box and provide a brief description in the DETAILS text box.
   - African/African American/Black
   - American Indian/Alaska Native
   - Asian/Asian American
   - European American/Eastern European/White
   - Latino/Hispanic
   - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
   - Immigrant
   - Refugee
   - People with mental/developmental disabilities
   - People with physical disabilities
   - All Demographic Communities
   - Don’t know
4. Do more than 51% of your board members identify as:
   - People of Color
   - People with Disabilities
   - Immigrants or Refugees
   - A combination of the above (select which groups)
   - None of the above

5. Who is represented on your board?
   - African/African American/Black
   - American Indian/Alaska Native
   - Asian/Asian American
   - European American/Eastern European/White
   - Latino/Hispanic
   - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
   - Immigrant
   - Refugee
   - People with mental/developmental disabilities
   - People with physical disabilities
   - Multi-cultural and/or cross-racial
   - All Demographic Communities
   - Don’t know

6. Does your organization meet the definition of [culturally-specific as defined here](#), reflecting NWHF’s equity priorities? Yes or No?

7. Does your organization meet the definition of [multicultural or cross-racial as defined here](#), led by communities reflecting NWHF’s equity priorities? Yes or No?

8. Does your organization meet the definition of [disability-led as defined here](#), reflecting NWHF’s equity priorities? Yes or No?

9. Who is engaged in the design and implementation of the project? How do these individuals self-identify in terms of their identity?
   - African/African American/Black
   - American Indian/Alaska Native
   - Asian/Asian American
   - European American/Eastern European/White
   - Latino/Hispanic
   - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
   - Immigrant
   - Refugee
   - People with mental/developmental disabilities
   - People with physical disabilities
Application Questions:

1. Did you participate in the NWHF Disability Justice Leaders Collaborative? Yes or No

2. Tell us about the people involved in your project. (300 words or 1,800 characters maximum)

3. Provide a brief description of your project. How will your project support civic engagement, cultural work, leadership development, movement building, or policy advocacy for disabled people of color? (300 words or 1,800 characters maximum)

4. How will your project align with or advance the Disability Justice Principles? (300 words or 1,800 characters maximum)

5. What is the timeline for your project? Projects can be funded for up to one year. (300 words or 1,800 characters maximum)

6. Tell us more about the organization supporting your project. If they are not an organization exclusively led by disabled people of color, how are they supporting the project, and why are they the right partner for this work? (300 words or 1,800 characters maximum)

7. Describe how you will use your funds. Budget format is encouraged but not required. Applicants can attach a separate budget.

Timeline

- Feb 26 - Application opens
- Mar 18 - Webinar
- Apr 30 - Application closes at noon
- May 19 - Applicants notified
- Early June - Funds awarded
- Grant funds must be spent by June 2021
- July 2021 - Final reports due
Contact Us

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