



**Fall 2021
Topic-Specific
Small Grant Offering
Outline**

Storytelling can be a powerful tool. Community-centric storytelling can support community members learning to tell their stories, policy change, public health communication and community development, for example. Effective, ethical storytelling initiatives require intentionality and sufficient resources.

The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Disability Coalition (TDC) has decided to hold a special grant offering in Fall 2021 to support disability community-centric storytelling initiatives.

Community-centric storytelling puts the community first. While important initiatives, storytelling with the primary goal to amplify brand awareness or raise money for nonprofits will **not** be eligible for this funding.

Initiatives that focus on serving underserved or intersectional communities will receive preference.

Funding Amount Available:

- Nonprofits may apply individually for a grant of up to \$10,000.
- Two or more nonprofits collaborating on an initiative may apply for a grant of up to \$15,000. One organization must serve as lead organization to manage disbursement of funds.

Funding Information:

- Grant funds must be used during the designated grant year (twelve months from receipt of grant contract)
- Funds cannot be used for past expenses, or to reimburse the program for expenses that were paid before the first award was deposited
- If grant funds are not exhausted, the excess funds must be returned to the TDC
- If grant funds are used for expenses that are not outlined in the proposed program budget line items, funds must be returned to the TDC
- Grant awards are not considered gifts or charitable grants

Who can apply?

- Nonprofit organizations in the State of Tennessee, United States of America that are IRS-designated tax-exempt organizations or governmental entities

- In order to be eligible, an organization's unrestricted funds as part of their annual budget must be less than \$2 million. For collaborative grant applicants, unrestricted funding per organization must be less than \$2 million. Unlike restricted funds which are designated by the funder for a specific program or use, unrestricted funds are not limited by the funder and usually go toward operating expenses or the program of the nonprofit's choice.
- Regardless of award date, all prior TDC small grant awardees are eligible for this special topic grant opportunity

Online Application Process:

1. Submission of a letter of interest with a budget outline
2. Submission of a full proposal, if requested, using the link provided in your acceptance letter

Funding Process:

1. The first half of the grant funding will be dispersed only after the signed Contract Agreement is returned to the TDC
2. The second half of the grant funding will be disbursed only after we have approved the five-month Summary of Activities Report

Online Reporting Process:

1. A five-month progress report in the proper format, with a current budget report
2. A final report, including a final budget, within six weeks following the end of the project term

Please note: Many organizations apply for grants each year and the overall amount of funding requested far exceeds our resources. Declined applications in no way reflect the worthiness of an organization's mission or programming.