2025-2026 Families Supporting Families:

Grant Option 1



Community members and organizations supporting families   
to live the lives they want

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Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities acknowledges the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in the development of all products or publications and for the continued support of this federally‐funded grant project.

# What are Families Supporting Families grants?

The **Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities** (BPDD) and the **Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction** (DPI) want to strengthen their partnerships with Wisconsin’s communities of color and communities who speak Spanish or Hmong to better support families who have school-aged children with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Intellectual and developmental disabilities include autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, Fragile X syndrome, and many others.

* We want all families and their children with disabilities in Wisconsin connected to the people, activities, and community resources they need to live the lives they want.

* We recognize that people from a community often know best how to support other members of their community.
* We will provide funding to an individual, community-based organization, Tribal Nation, or school to launch or expand the work you are doing to support children with disabilities and families.
* We want to hear your ideas on what might work best to support families of children with disabilities in your community. Your activities should be based on what you’ve seen work or what you think might be most useful. Below is a list of what other grantees have done. You can use these ideas or come up with your own.
  + Brought families together for a fun activity in the community that also shares local resources.
  + Hosted virtual or in-person “Parent Hours” that give parents (or other family members) time to connect, share experiences, and practice self-care, leadership, and mentoring.
  + Brought the broader community together to raise awareness about disability.
  + Hosted workshops for families on topics of interest like building school partnerships, bullying, or health care.
* **Grant proposals and budgets are due on August 22, 2025, at 5:00pm. We will notify applicants about their status by September 12, 2025.** Projects begin October 1, 2025.
* You can request up to $20,000 to be used by September 30, 2026.
* We will award up to eight (8) grants.
* You can only apply for one grant option. Apply for this grant option if your organization mostly serves families who live locally. If your organization mostly serves families who are geographically dispersed (or live around the state) and you’re willing to coordinate overnight events, apply for Grant Option 2.
* Availability of Funds Disclaimer: The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities’ obligation to grant out these funds and to make payments is conditioned upon the availability of these federal government funds. Funds can be limited for any reason including, but not limited to, congressional, legislative, gubernatorial, or administrative action. BPDD may terminate a contract in the case of non-appropriation of funds or the government’s withholding of appropriated funds.

# Who is eligible to apply?

* Any individual, community-based organization, Tribal Nation, or school that serves communities of color including, but not limited to, Asian, Black, Latino, Spanish-speaking, Hmong-speaking and Tribal communities.
* Ideally, the applicant is a person who identifies as being a member of that community. Or, if an organization is applying, the organization is ideally led by a person who identifies as being a member of that community.

# How do I apply?

* **Complete the Proposal and Budget by August 22, 2025, at 5:00pm:** Email your completed proposal and budget (see below) to Molly Cooney ([molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov)) by 5:00pm. **If you would prefer to complete the application through an interview process, please contact Molly Cooney at** [**molly.cooey@wisconsin.gov**](mailto:molly.cooey@wisconsin.gov) **or (608) 266-0266 to set up a time to talk.**
* We can translate this application into other languages. Please let us know what language you need.

**हम इस आवेदन का अन्य भाषाओं में अनुवाद कर सकते हैं। कृपया हमें बताएं कि आपको यह किस भाषा में चाहिए।**

我们可以将此申请翻译为其他语言。请让我们知晓您需要哪种语言。

我們可以將此應用程式翻譯成其他語言。請告訴我們您需要的語言。

# What do I need to do if my proposal is selected?

* **Kick-off Meeting:** Attend a virtual kick-off meeting tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2025, at 1pm to get information about the contract and how to invoice, learn about the other organizations participating in this project, further develop your workplan, brainstorm outcomes you would like to achieve, and meet DPI and BPDD staff.
* **Quarterly Check-ins**: Meet quarterly by phone, Zoom or in-person to check-in with DPI and BPDD staff. During these check-ins, we will go through a list of questions to:
  + Hear how things are going,
  + Learn if there are actions we can take in our organizations to improve the way services are working for your families,
  + Gather data and stories, and
  + Support you in any way we can.

These check-ins take the place of written reports.

* **Outcomes:** Identify the results or outcomes you hope to achieve. We will work together to find ways to collect this information easily and in a culturally responsive way. We will not collect contact information about the people participating in your activities.
* **Invoice:** Invoice BPDD monthly or, at minimum, quarterly.

# Grant Proposal

## The completed proposal and budget are due on August 22, 2025, by 5:00p.m.

If you have questions, contact Molly Cooney at 608-266-0266 or [molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov)

**Your Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone number:**

**Email address:**

1. Tell us a little about yourself or your organization.
2. Why are you interested in this funding? (justification)
3. How will you use the funding to support families and their children with disabilities? Explain your activities. (statement of work)
4. Are these new activities or are you expanding the work you already do?
5. What community or communities of color will you serve? How will you be effective at serving this community? (target community)
6. How will these activities positively impact the community? How many people or families do you think you’ll reach? (impact)
7. How much funding are you requesting? You can ask for up to $20,000.
8. WI-BPDD shares the State of Wisconsin's goal to partner more with Minority-Owned Businesses and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses. We strive to partner with other traditionally underrepresented communities as well. Is your organization at least 51% owned, managed, or controlled by a person who identifies as American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian, LGBTQ+, or disabled?

Yes or No

# Budget Worksheet

You can use the funds in many ways. If you have questions about using grant funds, please contact Molly Cooney at 608-266-0266 or [molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov).

Funds **can** be used to:

* pay yourself or staff for time spent working with families,
* pay for event space, food, or materials for meetings or events, and
* pay for a speaker to present to your group.

Funds cannot be used:

* for vehicles or technology (like computers or phones or other equipment),
* to pay for services or supports an agency/organization is already charged with providing like direct services to people with disabilities, and
* staff time already covered by another agency, organization, or grant.

Funds for travel, including lodging and meals, **must be** **pre-approved** by BPDD and DPI staff.

**SAMPLE BUDGET**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ITEM** (be as specific as possible) | **COST** |
| Staff fees (12 hours/week for 40 weeks @ $30/hour = $8,640) | $14,400 |
| Meeting space rental for 4 events ($100 per event x 4 events = $400) | $400 |
| Refreshments for 4 events ($100 x 4 events = $400) | $400 |
| Speaker fee for one event | $250 |
| Stipends for family participation (10 families x $50 stipend = $500) | $500 |
| Staff training/conference (2 staff x $400 registration and lodging = $800) | $800 |
| Materials (wall board, markers, post-it notes, copies) | $200 |
| **Total** | **$16,950** |

**YOUR PROJECT’S BUDGET**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ITEM** (be as specific as possible) | **COST** |
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| **TOTAL** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **PROJECT**  **WORK PLAN** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Primary Project Contact Person:**  **Project Title**: | | **Contact Info** (address, phone number, email): | | |
| **Project Goal(s):** | | | | |
| **Work Plan** | | | | |
| **Project Objectives/Activities:**  **(What will you do?)** | **Outcomes:**  **(What will you achieve?)** | | **Deliverables/Products:**  **(What will you develop/create?)** | **Target Date:**  **(When will it be done?)** |
| **EXAMPLE:** Coordinate a workshop for families on IEPs and advocacy strategies. | **EXAMPLE:** Participating families better understand the IEP process and feel more comfortable voicing ideas and concerns. | | **EXAMPLE:** Tip sheets and other materials for families on IEPs. | **EXAMPLE:** 12/15/25 |
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