



# PETER & ELIZABETH TOWER FOUNDATION

## *Programs & Services*

2024 Guidelines

### Eligibility

- It's easiest for us to accept grant applications from:
  - Not-for-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation that are not private foundations;
  - Not-for-profit public benefit corporations;
  - Public or diocesan school districts; or
  - Private or charter schools.
- We will be making grants to organizations currently providing services in one or more of these regions:
  - Massachusetts: Barnstable County, Dukes County, Essex County, Nantucket County
  - New York: Erie County, Niagara County
- At a minimum, grant partners currently provide prevention, treatment, and/or recovery services to people aged 26 years or younger from at least one of these populations:
  - People with intellectual disabilities (including those on the autism spectrum)
  - People with specific learning disabilities
  - People with mental illness/mental health challenges
  - People with substance use disorders
- Our ideal grant partners serve one or more of the populations listed above who also have intersecting identities as members of historically marginalized communities (e.g., Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American/Indigenous Peoples, disability, housing insecure, immigrant/refugee, LGBTQIA+).
- While organizations may have more than one active Programs & Services grant at any given time, we are likely to give preference to organizations that have not received a grant award recently. If we decline a funding request, your organization may reapply as soon as the following cycle.

### Funding Availability

- We anticipate awarding a total of \$2.7 million is available, with \$1.35 million awarded in each of two grant cycles. Preliminary applications will be due by February 7, 2024 and August 7, 2024, respectively.
- The Tower Foundation is open to multi-year grants with budgets typically ranging from (but not limited to) \$15,000 to \$50,000 per year. The most competitive applications are likely to be no more than three years and fall at or below \$150,000 in total.

## Application Timeline

	Spring Cycle	Fall Cycle
Preliminary Grant Requests Due*	Wednesday, February 7, 2024	Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Clarification Calls (if needed)†	March 7– March 22	August 29 – September 13
Requests for Full Proposals Sent	April 3	September 25
Collaborative Proposal Review	April 4 – May 10	September 26 – November 8
Proposal Decisions Sent	May 29	November 27

\* Preliminary grant requests must be received by 11:59:59 p.m. on the stated due date. Requests submitted after the due date will be considered during the next cycle.

† Not all applicants will be invited for clarification calls, even if their requests remain under consideration. Please do not contact the Foundation inquiring about the status of your application if you haven't been invited to schedule a clarification call.

## What We're Most Interested in Funding

The Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation is interested in funding requests that address the needs of young people affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders who also have intersecting identities as members of historically marginalized communities (e.g., Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latinx, Native American/Indigenous Peoples, disability, housing insecure, immigrant/refugee, LGBTQIA+).

Through our Programs & Services grants, we seek to support projects or initiatives that are new to an organization or that enhance, expand, or adapt existing activities. We will not consider general operating requests (i.e., support for existing costs of doing business).

Organizations are welcome to apply an **administrative overhead rate** of 15% on grant requests over \$100,000 and 20% for requests of \$100,000 or less. We cap the administrative overhead rate for colleges, universities, and affiliated organizations at 10%.

The strongest projects will align with [one or more of our goals](#) and incorporate most, if not all, elements of the Foundation's values:

- **Diverse Voices** – We listen to and learn from those with different points of view and perspectives. We seek to be proximate with the communities we serve – continually engaging in respectful conversation and incorporating what we hear into our work.
- **Collaboration** – We understand that in order to make progress, we must build relationships with our partners and share knowledge, resources, expertise, and strategies.
- **Innovation** – We embrace change and are willing to take risks, recognizing the potential for transformative effect. We look for opportunities to try new and creative strategies and encourage others to do the same.
- **Perseverance** – We recognize that change work can be slow and challenging. We are committed to the long-term improvement of organizations and communities.
- **Equity** – We pay close attention to the convergence of our focus areas with systemic issues of racism, sexism, classism, ableism, and more, because living at the intersection of multiple identities is a reality that factors importantly into our grantmaking.

## How to Apply

- Most of our grant requests come in through [the Foundation's grants portal](#). If you don't need any sort of special consideration (see below), please submit your application here: <https://towerfdn.link/grants-portal/>
- Please [drop us an email](#) ([info@thetowerfoundation.org](mailto:info@thetowerfoundation.org)) if an accommodation would make it easier for you to apply.
- For any of the following situations, please [get in touch with a Program Officer](#) to discuss your circumstances:
  - We are happy to take applications in non-written formats (e.g., video, audio). Nothing highly produced, though – keep it simple (but make sure you have good sound quality!).
  - Not one of the organization types listed above? No problem. We'll take proposals from groups or organizations that do not have non-profit status as long as they apply through a fiscal sponsor.
  - We are open to accepting proposals written for other funders.

## How to Contact Us

If you have any questions that aren't covered in these guidelines, you'd like to discuss a special circumstance, or you want to see whether an idea you have for a grant is a good fit for the Foundation, please get in touch with one of our Program Officers.

- Schedule a phone call: <https://calendly.com/towerfdn-program>
- Send us an email: [info@thetowerfoundation.org](mailto:info@thetowerfoundation.org)