



PETER & ELIZABETH TOWER FOUNDATION

COVID-19 Response Grant Guidelines

In light of the jarring realities of COVID-19 and the havoc it has wrought on our communities, the Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation has diverted all of its 2020 grant dollars to pandemic response. Just over half of these dollars were donated to community response efforts, and the remainder will be used to make grants to individual and partnering community-based organizations. Instead of its usual programmatic grants, the Foundation will make general support grants to local organizations and collaborative efforts with a programmatic presence in its funding geography that serve children, adolescents, and/or young adults affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, and/or substance use disorders.

The application will be very brief and will focus on helping the Foundation understand the needs and opportunities these organizations and the people they serve face because of COVID-19. The Foundation’s future grantmaking during the pandemic will be influenced substantially by what we learn from the submissions during this process.

The currently available funds are modest (\$300,000). Please keep your requests as lean as possible so that we can maximize the number of organizations, families, and individuals benefitting from these dollars.

Who Can Apply?

Organizations **currently providing services** within the following regions are eligible to apply under this grant opportunity:

Massachusetts	New York
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Barnstable County · Dukes County · Essex County · Nantucket County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Erie County · Niagara County

Please note that applicants must deliver services *within* these counties. For example, a clinic serving people exclusively in Boston, some of whom happen to live in Essex County, would not be eligible to apply. Organizations that are headquartered elsewhere are eligible to apply, provided that grant funds are used to support the work performed within these counties.

Services must focus on people aged zero to twenty-six and on one or more of the following Tower Foundation funding areas (see sidebars on pages two and three for definitions):

Young people age 0-26 affected by:			
Intellectual Disabilities	Learning Disabilities	Mental Illness	Substance Use Disorders

Additionally, applicants must be:

- Not-for-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation that are not private foundations, or
- Not-for-profit public benefit corporations

Funding Preferences

This funding opportunity is intended as a short-term response to organizational challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect to prioritize applications from **organizations serving young people affected by intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health, and/or substance use disorders** that:

- Have an annual operating budget of \$8 million or less.
- Continue to serve, whether in person or via telehealth, populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, people who are incarcerated, people with disabilities, refugee and immigrant communities, communities of color).
- Continue to provide necessary in-person services (e.g., residential care, inpatient, in-home) to the highest-need populations despite increased risk to staff.
- Continue to serve families and caregivers who are supporting children and young adults in their home, including services to combat isolation; to support health and well-being; and to provide family respite.
- Incorporate beneficiary voice into the services it offers and how these services are delivered.

How Much Funding is Available?

The Foundation has allocated a total of \$300,000 to this grant opportunity. The Foundation anticipates awarding approximately 15-20 grants of up to \$25,000.

How Does My Organization Apply for a Grant?

Unless you have made alternative arrangements, all grant requests must be submitted online at the following link:

<https://towerfdn.link/covid-19>

An **Intellectual disability** is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18. Intellectual functioning refers to general mental capacity, such as learning, reasoning, and problem solving.

Adaptive behavior comprises three skill types:

1. Conceptual skills (e.g., language and literacy; money; time; number concepts; self-direction)
2. Social skills (e.g., interpersonal skills, social responsibility; self-esteem, gullibility, naïveté, social problem-solving; ability to follow rules/obey laws and avoid being victimized)
3. Practical skills (e.g., personal care, occupational skills; healthcare; travel/transportation; schedules/routines; safety use of money use of telephone.

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 2011

Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically and functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

When Can I Apply?

Application deadline: 11:59:59pm Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Expect to hear from us by: Wednesday, June 10, 2020

How Do I Get in Touch with the Foundation If I Have More Questions?

If you have questions about the Foundation's COVID-19 Response grant guidelines, please contact us. You can send us an email at info@thetowerfoundation.org or schedule a 30-minute phone call with a Program Officer at <https://towerfdn.link/30-min-call>

Accommodations

The Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation is committed to making its guidelines and applications accessible to all. Please contact Don Matteson at dwm@thetowerfoundation.org or 716-906-8903 to make accessibility arrangements (e.g., submissions via alternative media, text-to-speech software licenses, transcription).

A learning disability is a lifelong condition which interferes with the ability to learn. It is a neurological disorder that affects the ability of the brain to process, store and respond to information. There are different types of learning disabilities that can affect different areas of processing, such as learning to read, reading comprehension, writing and spelling, organizing written and spoken language, mathematical operations, decision making, and the development of fine motor skills. Individuals with LD may be particularly gifted in other skills and are typically of normal intelligence.

American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Mental illness includes medical conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life.

Serious mental illnesses include major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and borderline personality disorder.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

COVID-19 Response Application Preview

NOTE: Unless you have made alternative arrangements, you must submit your application online via Google Forms:

<https://towerfdn.link/covid-19>

1. Organization Name
2. Employer Identification Number (EIN)
3. Contact Person First Name
4. Contact Person Last Name
5. Contact Person Email Address
6. Contact Person Phone Number
7. Signatory First Name
8. Signatory Last Name
9. Signatory Email Address
10. If we award your organization a grant, would you prefer a paper check or direct deposit? (We'll get the details later if needed.)
11. What is your organization's annual budget?
12. What population(s) are you serving? (Please check all that apply)
 - People with intellectual disabilities
 - People with learning disabilities
 - People with mental health issues
 - People with substance use disorder
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - People who are incarcerated
 - People with disabilities (other than intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities)
 - Refugee and immigrant communities
 - Communities of color
13. In what Tower Foundation county/counties do you currently provide services? (Please check all that apply)
 - Barnstable County, MA
 - Dukes County, MA
 - Essex County, MA
 - Nantucket County, MA
 - Erie County, NY
 - Niagara County, NY
14. What services are you providing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic? Indicate any ways in which you have been able to incorporate input/feedback from the people you serve into your services. **(750 word limit)**
15. What needs and/or opportunities does your organization have as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? **(500 word limit)**
16. What needs and/or opportunities do the people you serve have as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (even if they're not things your organization can address)? **(500 word limit)**
17. How much money are you requesting? (Maximum request is \$25,000, but please only ask for what you need!)

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