

Disability _____
Communications
 _____ Fund
Access for All

Funding Priorities 2017

The mission of Disability Communications Fund (DCF) is to serve as an educator, convener and resource that works collaboratively to ensure communications access to people with disabilities in California.

DCF's supports programs and technology that benefit communications needs of Californians with disabilities.

| Priority | Description |
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| 1. TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AT AND AAC EXPERTS | <p>Disability Communications Fund (DCF) supports projects that build an organization's capacity through the training of professionals. The goal is to expand the availability of professionals trained in Assistive Technology (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) throughout California's communities.</p> <p>Projects should include the development of documentation that facilitates ongoing sharing of knowledge and best practices.</p> <p>Given other available public sources of funding, the trainings we support should focus on no/low tech (low cost, low maintenance, not mechanically complex or electronic,) and mid-tech systems (electronic or battery operated, some complex features, may require some training).</p> <p>This priority focuses on the training of professionals (SLPs, educational staff, and care staff). Hands-on application of the curriculum involving individuals with disabilities as part of the project is useful, but should not be the focus of the project.</p> |

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| <p>2. FACILITATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION</p> | <p>Disability Communications Fund (DCF) supports organizations in the collection and evaluation of data on a service or target population for the purpose of documenting best practices or a gap analysis. DCF also wants to encourage the development and testing of new technologies and services that benefit individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Grantees need to be willing to publicly share the results of their project in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • article/paper, • presentations, or • open sourcing (making specifications of a device, app or program available for public use or modification). |
| <p>3. REPLICATING SUCCESSFUL MODELS</p> | <p>Disability Communications Fund (DCF) wants to foster collaboration and exchange among the organizations serving the California disability community. Taking advantage of existing networks and collaborations (California-wide or locally), DCF supports successful programs or models to expand their reach through replication. The organization that has developed the program or model should be the one applying for the grant.</p> <p>The intention is to share best practices, adapting them to geographically, demographically or culturally different settings as needed.</p> <p>It is not a requirement that the project to be replicated was previously funded by DCF, however, all organizations applying need to be able to clearly demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the project/model has been successful, • the need for and benefit of replication, • that the organization has the capacity to support the replication, and • prospective partner organization(s). |