

Inviting Grant Applications for Family Led Initiatives

Description:

Community Living Ontario (CLO) is excited to announce the launch of the grant program again this year in the province of Ontario. This grant funding is aimed at supporting family-led engagement groups in our communities for family members who have loved ones with intellectual disabilities. We believe that fostering strong family connections and collaboration is vital for the holistic development of all people.

As a provincial organization, Community Living Ontario is committed to providing resources and support to promote meaningful family engagement and providing families in Ontario the opportunity to network and build good lives for their loved ones. We encourage groups and networks that serve diverse populations from all across Ontario to apply for this grant, as we recognize the importance of diversity in creating positive change. We are committed to supporting and empowering groups and networks that are dedicated to promoting inclusivity and equity for all.

Objectives:

The primary objective of the grant is to encourage and facilitate family engagement groups that create opportunities for families who have loved ones with intellectual disabilities to connect, learn, and grow together. By providing financial assistance of up to \$10,000, we aim to enable groups and networks to design and implement innovative and impactful family engagement at the grassroots level in Ontario.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be considered for the grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Family groups/networks (incorporated or not);
- Demonstrated commitment to supporting families with a member who has an intellectual disability;
- Clear one or two-page plan outlining the proposed family engagement including objectives, activities and expected outcomes;
- Provide stated principles and values that will guide your family engagement work;

Community Living Ontario

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- The proposed activities should foster a sense of belonging and community among families, creating opportunities for peer support, mentorship and special connections.
- The family groups should be aligned with the values of Community Living Ontario- family-to-family connections, creating learning opportunities, building mutual support among families, and helping to shape meaningful lives for their family member – one of inclusion and belonging;
- Demonstrated knowledge of disability-inclusive practices and strategies;
- Ability to provide accommodations and adaptations to ensure equitable participation by all;
- Efforts to promote family engagement should be sustainable beyond the duration of the grant, with plans for long-term impact and ongoing collaboration within the community;
- Ability to track, measure and provide a brief (one or two-page) report to CLO with regards to the impact of the family engagement as a result of the grant.

*Please read our [Family Engagement Vision Statement for our Family Leadership work](#) (attached).

Application Process:

Interested groups/networks can apply for the grant by submitting a brief (one or two-page) proposal that includes the following:

1. Description: Clearly outline the purpose, objectives, and activities of the proposed family engagement, specifically designed for families of children who have intellectual disabilities.
2. Budget plan: Provide a budget including how the grant funds will be utilized and any additional funding sources.
3. Implementation timeline: Provide a timeline of activities between July 2024 and April 2025, outlining the milestones and deliverables of the project.
4. Evaluation and impact measurement: Describe the methods and metrics that will be used to assess the effectiveness and impact of the initiative.
5. Background: Provide information about the group/network, its goals and previous experience in family engagement or related initiatives in the province of Ontario.

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Grant features:

1. **Funding Support:** We will offer grants to eligible groups/networks of up to \$10,000, to support the planning and execution of family engagement work. The grant amount will be determined based on the proposed project's scope, scale, and potential impact.
2. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** It is imperative that the proposed activities prioritize inclusivity and accessibility. Grant recipients will be expected to incorporate accommodations for disabilities, adaptations, and specialized resources to ensure that all family members can fully participate and benefit from the activities.
3. **Capacity building:** We recognize the importance of equipping people with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver effective family engagement as part of the grant. Grant recipients can reach out to CLO for access to key resources to enhance their ability to create engaging and impactful experiences.
4. **Collaboration and Networking:** In addition to financial support, grant recipients will have the opportunity to collaborate with others in Ontario, working towards similar goals.

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of experts in disability support and family engagement. The selection criteria will include the clarity and feasibility of the proposal, alignment with the grant objectives, potential impact, inclusivity, and the capacity for successful implementation within the timeframes specified.

Please send a one-page proposal along with a budget plan (in excel sheet) to inclusion@communitylivingontario.ca. The application deadline is **Wednesday, June 5th by 5:00 p.m.** Upon completion of the selection process, successful applicants will be notified and awarded the grant at the beginning of July. CLO will provide ongoing support and guidance to ensure the smooth implementation and success of the family engagement initiatives. All successful applicants will be required to provide a brief report of their activities to CLO by **April 30th, 2025.**

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