

2025 Impact Grant for Deaf Organizations

<https://bit.ly/2025DOFImpactGrant>

Frequently Asked Questions

General questions:

1. Can past and current DOF grantees apply?

Past and current grantees, if they meet the 2025 grant eligibility criteria, are welcome to apply again for this year's grant that just opened.

2. If awarded, will you require 990 documentations from grantees?

When awarded, DOF requires your organization, or your fiscal sponsor, to have tax-exempt status in good standing with the IRS. One important aspect of remaining in good standing with the IRS is ensuring your organization has filed the necessary federal tax form annually (Form 990 series). DOF does not require you to submit your most recent Form 990 to us when awarded.

3. Are new organizations who received their tax-exempt status earlier this year able to apply?

Yes, new organizations with tax-exempt status can apply. In the unlikely event that Submittable, DOF's application portal, does not recognize your organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN), please contact DOF@DeafOrganizationsFund.org.

4. Can the grant support the operating expenses of the organization?

Yes, the Impact Grant for Deaf Organizations is unrestricted funding, which means the funds can be used to support the overall mission and operations of the organization.

5. Can two deaf organizations apply together?

Yes, two organizations can apply together. However, only one organization can be the primary applicant to submit the application and receive the award.

6. Can the fund support an organization's media project to promote social justice cause tied to the organization's mission?

Yes, the Impact Grant for Deaf Organizations is unrestricted funding, which means the funds can be used to support the organization's mission and operations, such as a media project.

7. What type of projects has DOF supported in the past?

Please check out our current 2024 cohort for their [project summaries](#). There are also past cohort cycles linked on our [website](#) that you can review. We are looking to strengthen the work of deaf-centric organizations and programs.

8. Can my organization receive assistance with filling out the grant?

We are happy to answer questions about our grant application via email at DOF@DeafOrganizationsFund.org or a scheduled Zoom meeting if needed.

9. Can the Impact Grant be used for a fundraising consultant?

Funds from this grant can be used for a fundraising consultant and other development efforts, such as a grant writer. Unrestricted funding can be used to address the long-term and sustainability needs of the organization.

10. Can you elaborate on not funding one-time events such as conferences, festivals, and camps?

We have received requests in the past to fund one-time conferences or festivals, which can constitute event sponsorship. This grant is intended to support your organization for one year with deliverables that help to strengthen your organization's infrastructure, programming, or other areas of greatest need.

However, if your organization's goal is to increase outreach and services to a specific population in your community and a part of that broader strategy is to host regular workshops and events over one year, then that will meet our eligibility criteria.

11. Is this funding limited to one year, or is it for recurring years?

This grant is currently designed as a one-year grant. Past grantees are welcome to apply again if they meet our current 2025 eligibility criteria.

12. How does DOF and Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) make these grants possible?

CSD is DOF's parent organization. DOF is its own public charity, and we conduct fundraising activities to make the grant program possible, with support from CSD as well.

Eligibility questions:

1. How strict is the requirement that at least 50% of organization leadership identify as members of deaf communities?

One of the key criteria for this grant is that organizations including deaf-serving programs within hearing organizations must be deaf-centric. DOF defines "deaf-centric" as: at least 50% of the organization or program's leadership (e.g., the executive director, staff, advisory committee, and/or governing boards) identify as members of deaf communities. The organization or program must also primarily work with members of deaf communities.

Members of deaf communities include people who identify as Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, or DeafDisabled. More information about our eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

2. Are government agencies and schools for the deaf eligible?

Applicant organizations must be based in the U.S. with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, or have a fiscal sponsor based in the U.S. with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Some deaf schools have 501(c)3 tax exempt status. More information about our eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

3. Are there any types of organizations that meet DOF's eligibility that you will not fund? For example, politically affiliated organizations, animal rights, deforestation projects, etc.

One of DOF's criteria is that deaf-centric organizations and programs must primarily work with members of deaf communities, which includes those who identify as Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, or DeafDisabled. An organization or program with at least 50% of its leadership identifying as members of deaf communities, but not primarily serving deaf communities, would not meet the grant's eligibility criteria.

Additionally, the grant project cannot be used for the following political purposes: to carry out propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, or to influence the outcome of any specific public election.

Budget questions:

1. What is the process for receiving the funding, if awarded?

Selected grantees will receive their funds upfront in January 2025 either via ACH or check.

2. Do grantees need to submit invoices or an itemized budget breakdown of how the grant funds were used?

While DOF does not require grantees to submit invoices or proof of expenditures, we do ask them to provide a high-level summary of how funds were used in their interim and final reports. We encourage organizations to record all grant expenses and retain financial documentation for audit purposes.

3. If the grant funds are not used by December 2025 when the project is supposed to be completed, can grantees ask for a no cost extension?

While we aim to have grantees complete their projects within the 12-month period, we understand that circumstances can affect the deliverables and grant project timeline. If your organization needs more time after the end of 2025 to spend down your project, just let us know. The midterm and final reports are also great ways to communicate spending progress on your grant.

4. Can the grant be used to cover accommodations, including interpreting services?

If the accommodations including interpreting services serve a specific purpose benefiting your organization or the people it works with, the grant can cover their costs.

Fiscal Sponsorship questions:

1. Does the fiscal sponsor organization have to be deaf-centric even if the applicant organization is deaf-centric?

The fiscal sponsor organization does not need to be deaf-centric.

2. Do we answer the application questions about the applicant organization, the fiscal sponsor, or both?

The applicant organization needs to answer questions about their organization. There is one question in the Organization Profile section that asks if you are using a fiscal sponsor, and if yes then the applicant organization must provide the fiscal sponsor's organization name, Employer Identification Number (EIN), and upload the fiscal sponsorship agreement between the applicant organization and fiscal sponsor.

Submittable questions:

1. If we logged onto Submittable in the past, can we use the same login and password, or do we need to create a new login for this year?

If you have an existing account with Submittable, you should be able to use the same login credentials. If you run into any trouble, please email us at DOF@DeafOrganizationsFund.org

2. When I apply, can I print out the draft copy and have it reviewed by our organization's board before submitting?

If you want people such as board members to review or otherwise edit your draft application on Submittable, you can use the "Invite Collaborator" feature on Submittable to give them access. They will not be able to submit the application, only the account holder can.

Alternatively, you can use the PDF copy of our application on our website if you want to draft in a separate word processor beforehand. You would be able to print draft copies to share with your board. When the final version is ready, copy and paste all responses into the Submittable portal.