



Request for Proposals:

\$50,000 in Grants Available to Create Small Businesses for People with Disabilities

**Deadline for proposal submissions
Monday, April 15th**

The EquallyAble Foundation is pleased to announce its 2019 GiveHope 1000 program grants. Two grants of \$25,000 each will be awarded to create a total of 100 small businesses that empower individuals with disabilities to support themselves and their families with honor, dignity, and independence.

GiveHope 1000 Program

There are over a billion people with disabilities around the world. In developing countries, 80% to 90% of persons with disabilities of working age are unemployed. Much of this tragically high unemployment rate is attributable to the lack of access to education and mobility for outside jobs, or the financial resources to start a small business. It is this last issue that GiveHope 1000 addresses.

To reduce unemployment among people with disabilities, EquallyAble launched the GiveHope 1000 program to create 1000 small businesses such as tea stalls, book stores, copy centers, seamstress shops, or juice stalls tailored to individuals' skill sets and abilities. We are excited that together with prior rounds of funding, these two grants will bring us to a total of 500 businesses created, halfway to our ambitious goal.

EquallyAble's Mission

EquallyAble's mission is to empower people with disabilities globally by providing access to education, equipment, and employment. We initiate and support local, grassroots efforts that empower people with disabilities by improving the quality of their daily lives, increasing their social inclusion and integration, and enabling them to live their lives with dignity and honor. For more information, visit www.equallyable.org.

Grant Eligibility

Funding will be awarded to nonprofit organizations, social enterprises, and community and civic groups for projects which advance the objectives of EquallyAble's GiveHope 1000 program outlined below. Projects must be in developing countries where the proposing organization has the resources, governing status, and infrastructure to operate. Applicants must also document their experience with and an understanding of the issues and challenges of people with disabilities.

Each business created under this program must be able to be launched for under \$500 and be owned and operated by a person with disabilities. They must also be simple to operate, accessible, and complement the abilities of individuals with disabilities.

Each should be targeted to the local market demands and customs. Businesses such as seamstress shops, coffee and tea stalls, and vending carts have been created by past grants, but we value innovative new ideas for businesses that meet the programs objectives effectively.

While operating overhead for the grantee is generally not allowed to be funded by the grants, an overhead allowance of up to 8% will be considered for low income organizations demonstrating need. The grant can be implemented at an individual site, as a neighborhood project, or as a community-wide initiative. It may be used for a single project or for a cooperative program with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

Cost Share, Project Plan, and Assessment

To ensure successful completion and to allow equity in this initiative, a cost share of 20% is required in proposals. The cost share can come from the participating organizations, their partners, or the individuals for whom the businesses will be created.

A project plan highlighting key stages of the project is required. The plan must identify at least three business types that will be implemented as part of the grant and a clear methodology to repeat this process to set up similar businesses in other locations. From the date of funding, the duration of projects under each grant will be no more than 12 months. An assessment is required to be completed at the end of the project to document results, lessons learned, and best practices.

Project Description

A project description, not to exceed three pages (exclusive of the profit and loss statements), must be submitted with each application and should address the following:

1. How does the project improve the lives of people with disabilities?
2. What skills are required to operate each business and how will the owner be provided any necessary training?
3. How did you choose the local market(s) where the project will be implemented?
4. Identify at least three business types that will be implemented, and why you feel there's a demand for each in the local market. Submit a pro forma profit and loss statement for each business demonstrating its viability and ability to support the owner and his/her family.
5. Is the project replicable by other groups in the region? Which groups and why?
6. What is the impact of this project on the individuals and the community?
7. Identify your project partners and how the project brings together diverse partners to help create businesses.

Budget Summary and Past History

Applicants must provide a budget summary for the entire project, including timeline, matching funds, and valuation of in-kind time, if applicable. If other funding will be used, list the funding sources, note if those funds are secured, and if not, describe the likelihood of securing those funds. The applicant's financial statements for the last three years along with a summary of projects done in that period are required with the application.

Selection Criteria

Grant awards will be based on the merit of the project along with the applicant's demonstrated ability to execute it. EquallyAble will award grants at its sole discretion and reserves the right to not award all funds announced if in its sole judgement there are not enough qualified projects.

Grant Agreement

Recipients of grants must sign a Grant Agreement that outlines expected outcomes and deliverables for each project prior to project funding.

EquallyAble GiveHope 1000 Grant Program Timeline

- Application submission deadline: April 15th, 2019
 - Grant review, rating, ranking and selection: May 15th, 2019
 - Grant winner(s) notification: June 1st, 2019
 - Period of Performance: 12 months
- (The above schedule is subject to change at EquallyAble's sole discretion)

Other Notes

- Applications and supporting documents must be sent electronically to: info@equallyable.org
- EquallyAble reserves the right to withdraw this RFP for any reason at its sole discretion.
- EquallyAble thanks its donors and supporters for making this grant possible.