



Better Together Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Better Together grants?

Better Together grants are designed to bring people together to make their community a better place. Our goal is to fund activities that expand opportunity for ALL community members to do things together. We understand that some people with disabilities are often not as involved in community life as other folks. These grants fund activities that include people with disability – along with everybody else – in accomplishing the goal of your activity.

How do I get an application?

We will send you an application after talking with you on the phone. We want to make sure your idea meets our criteria before you write an application that we can't fund. Download the [Grant Checklist](http://ocdd.org/better-together-grants) (ocdd.org/better-together-grants) to help you prepare for the call. We look forward to helping you write a winning application!

What is the granting process?

We will contact you within two weeks of receiving your application to let you know whether you've been approved. If you are approved, we'll send you an Agreement form and W9 to complete. Once you return the completed Agreement form and W9, we will send you 75% of the requested grant funds. We'll send the remaining 25% when you submit a one-page written story or short video (3 minutes or less) at the end of your activity.

What are the granting criteria?

Successful applications meet the following criteria. Activities must:

- Be open to everyone in your community.
- Increase opportunities for people in your community to do something together that builds relationships (like a book club or cooking class) or makes a physical improvement (like cleaning up a park or painting a mural).

- Include at least one person with a disability as an active participant in the planning or doing.
- Involve at least four people who are not directly-related family members.

Are there any activities that you can't fund?

We do not fund activities that:

- Promote political or religious viewpoints. However, faith-based groups are welcome to apply.
- Are designed specifically for people with disabilities as primary recipients of the activity.
- Use grant funds for labor costs.
- Do not bring people together to share time and build friendships.
- Require on-going funding from us to succeed.
- Are repeat applications for the same idea.

What kind of activities do you give priority to?

We give priority to activities that:

- Involve people with disabilities as planners and leaders.
- Leave something tangible behind.
- Benefit a wide range of community members.
- A core group of people is enthused about.
- Use the grant money wisely for the widest gain.

How long will it take to receive funds once my application has been approved?

Once we approve your application and receive a completed Agreement and W9 form, it will take about three weeks for you to receive the funds.

What is the timeline for spending the grant once the funds are received?

You must spend the funds and complete your activity six months from the date your application is approved. For example, if we approve your application on January 1st, you must spend the funds and complete your activity no later than May 31st.

What type of record keeping is required? Should I save my receipts?

We do not ask you to keep records or send us your receipts. However, we do ask that you tell us the story of what happened and how your community benefited. Download the [Submitting Your Story](https://ocdd.org/better-together-grants) document at ocdd.org/better-together-grants for more details.

Can I apply for more than one grant? How long would I have to wait?

You can submit more than one application. We may fund up to two applications from the same person per year. We require that each application requests funds for a new idea. We will not fund repeat applications for the same idea. We also will not fund ideas that require ongoing funding to succeed.

Will OCDD help me advertise my event?

We are happy to help you advertise your event! If you send us details about your event, we will post on our social media.

Will OCDD help me find free or low-cost space for my activity?

We are happy to help you brainstorm ideas for free or low-cost space that would be appropriate for your activity. However, it is up to you to find a space that meets your needs.

Will OCDD provide any in-kind support, such as office supplies?

If your application is approved, you can use requested funds to purchase any supplies needed for your activity. We can help with low-cost ideas. However, we do not have capacity to provide in-kind support.

Will OCDD attend my event?

Please invite us to your event! We would love to attend and will do so if we are available.

Updated 8/7/2018