Accessibility Projects Grants 2025/2026

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP)**

*Promoting Inclusion and Accessibility for People with Disabilities*

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# Part One: Overview and Application Process

## Background

Disability Alliance BC (DABC) is a charitable not-for-profit society that has been active since 1977. Our mission is to promote a more inclusive and equitable society for people with all disabilities through our direct services, community partnerships, systemic advocacy, research, and publications. More information about our programs is available on our website: [DABC (disabilityalliancebc.org)](https://disabilityalliancebc.org/)

BC celebrated its first annual Accessibility Week from May 27th to June 2nd, 2018. As part of the Province’s goal to improve accessibility for people with disabilities in BC, DABC was selected by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) to distribute funding to community based “Accessibility Projects.” With the successful administration of the Accessibility Project Grants in 2018-2025, DABC was again selected to administer Accessibility Projects Grants in 2025, with projects taking place in 2026.

## Funding

Following a community-based evaluation and selection process, DABC will distribute a total of $450,000 to successful BC-based not-for-profit organizations. Organizations may apply for up to $40,000 per project.

## Key Dates

* Applications will open on Tuesday, August 5th 2025.
* **Online information sessions will occur on Thursday August 21st at 1:00pm-2:00pm and Wednesday September 3rd at 11:30am-12:30pm**. Please see the Inquiries and Application Support section below for more information.
* **Completed applications must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) Pacific Time on Friday September 12th, 2025.**
* **Successful projects will be announced and funding will be distributed in December 2025 so that year-long projects can begin in January 2026.** The names of the successful projects will also be publicly available on our website [here](http://disabilityalliancebc.org/program/accessibility-projects/) after the selection process is complete. Please also see this link to learn about the kinds of projects that have been funded in the past.
* Successful projects will submit an interim written report to DABC by July 15th, 2026, detailing project activities up until June 30th.
* Projects must be completed by December 31st, 2025 and a final written report must be submitted to DABC by February 6th, 2026.

## Application Package

Project proposals must be submitted electronically to ap@dabc.ca and consist of:

* A completed application form submitted on the given template. A signature must be included or the application will not be considered.
* A completed project budget, which must be submitted on the given template.
* Two mandatory letters of support from other local organizations who are not directly involved in and do not financially benefit from the project. Please note: support letters cannot come from DABC staff or Board.
* Optionally, it can also include one support letter from a client/potential project participant and up to two letters of collaboration from Project Partners (if applicable). These must also include a signature and be addressed to DABC.

Please submit these documents as separate files, saved as “application form,” “budget,” “support letter,” “client letter,” and “partner letter.” **We ask that you do not send any additional letters or attachments other than those described above. Anything in addition to the required documents will not be reviewed or considered.**

For accessibility purposes, please submit documents in Arial 14 point font.

Application and budget forms, including ones that are accessible for screenreaders, can be downloaded [here](http://disabilityalliancebc.org/program/accessibilityprojects/). You will also find ASL videos of the Call for Proposals, application and budget forms (please note: applications must be submitted in written English) and lists of past successful projects.

## Application Submission

* All applications should be **submitted via email to the attention of the Accessibility Projects Coordinator at** **ap@dabc.ca**. Please use the subject heading “**APG 2025 - Your Organization Name**” and submit by the deadline of Friday September 12th, 2025 at noon Pacific Time.
* Applications not submitted through this process will not be accepted, including applications submitted by fax or mail.
* We encourage submission in PDF format due to digital security issues around signatures included in the application. If you have any issues with conversion to a PDF, you may submit as a Word document, but by doing so confirm that you will not hold DABC responsible for anything that occurs due to lessened digital security.

DABC will issue a confirmation by email. If you do not receive a confirmation, please communicate with DABC within 2 business days (no later than Tuesday, September 16that noon Pacific Time). It is your responsibility to make sure your application was successfully submitted.

## Inquiries and Application Support

If you have a specific question about your application, you can reach the Accessibility Projects Grants Coordinator at ap@dabc.ca. Please note that the Coordinator is only available by phone or video when required for accessibility reasons or in exceptional circumstances where someone is unable to submit their inquiry by email. Otherwise, please be in touch by email only.

* As above, the Coordinator will also host online group sessions during the application period where potential applicants will be invited to learn about the application process and ask questions. These are scheduled on: **Thursday August 21st at 1:00pm-2:00pm and Wednesday September 3rd at 11:30am-12:30pm**.

To be notified of any changes and for registration information, please sign up for the DABC e-newsletter [here](https://signup-can.keela.co/newsletter-subscription52).

## Evaluation and Selection

Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee comprised of representatives from DABC and other BC disability or community service organizations. Projects will be rated out of a maximum of 150 points. In addition to the point scores awarded to the various applications, final consideration will be given to diversity of projects regarding: geographical region, accessibility initiative category, disability focus, and inclusivity of people with disabilities of intersectional backgrounds. Decisions will be released in early December.

# Part Two: Accessibility Projects Grants Requirements

## Eligible Organizations

* Eligible organizations must be not-for-profit organizations based in BC, Canada, that operate primarily for community benefit and whose services are open to the public and not restricted to the organization’s membership.
* Organizations do not need to be a registered charity but must have a democratically elected volunteer Board chosen by its membership.
* National or international organizations may be eligible, but only if they have a base of operations in BC and sufficient capacity to deliver services in BC.
* Governmental bodies, including municipalities, First Nations bands, and public-sector organizations are not eligible as they are targeted by other funding streams. To see a list of public sector organizations that are not eligible to apply, please click [here](https://bcaccessibilityhub.ca/committees/organization-list/).
* Once an organization has received a grant they can reapply 5 years after their application was submitted for a new project (for example, if an organization applied in 2020 for a grant and did their project in 2021, they can reapply in 2025 to do a new project in 2026).
* Organizations that have a real or perceived conflict of interest with DABC must declare this on their application. This could include, for example, current or past partnerships, or staff or board members in common. Potential conflicts of interest may not disqualify the application, but must be declared so that they can be discussed by the Review Committee and Executive Director. Before applying, please review our Conflict of Interest protocol [here.](https://disabilityalliancebc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Conflict-of-Interest-Protocol-Updated-July-2025.docx) If you wish to know if conflict of interest will affect your eligibility before applying, please contact the APG Coordinator (ap@dabc.ca) so that your case can be considered.

## Eligible Projects

Up to $40,000 grants are awarded to projects that:

* Take place within the next calendar year.
* Have significant project activities in both reporting periods (January-June and July-December).
* Are focused on community engagement (rather than large capital costs – see ineligible projects and costs sections for more information).
* Are self-contained projects, or, if part of an ongoing project or program, demonstrate a clear and specific expansion or innovation that the grant will be used for.
* Promote accessibility for people with disabilities in BC (for more information on accessibility outcomes please see below). Please note that although we welcome projects that engage intersectional communities/groups, applications should specify how the project primarily promotes accessibility for people with disabilities. For example, if your project is for a seniors’ community, please focus your application on the benefit specifically for seniors with disabilities.

## Accessibility Outcomes

Projects must have **clear, tangible, measurable outputs and outcomes that promote accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.**The Accessibility Projects must advance at least one of the following specific objectives for British Columbians with disabilities:

* Accessible employment;
* Accessible emergency planning and response;
* Accessible arts, culture and tourism;
* Accessible sports and recreation;
* Accessible education and learning;
* Accessible community participation.

Priority will be given to projects that illustrate progress toward longer term outcomes in addition to shorter term ones. However, particularly strong shorter-term outcomes will also be considered. If you are unsure whether the outcomes of your project fulfill these criteria, please reach out to ap@dabc.ca to discuss this with the Coordinator.

Examples include:

**Accessibility Objective: Accessible employment**

* **Shorter Term Outcomes:** 15 people with disabilities are supported and empowered in the workplace. Workplace culture becomes more inclusive of people with disabilities (based on 90% positive survey responses).
* **Longer Term Outcome:** Improved employment and/or volunteering outcomes for people with disabilities in the Lower Mainland.

**Accessibility Objective: Accessible emergency planning and response**

* **Shorter Term Outcomes:** Increased community awareness about the needs of people with disabilities in emergencies (based on 90% positive survey responses). Development of specific plans and strategies to support people with disabilities in emergencies, which will directly benefit about 20 people with disabilities and indirectly benefit 200.
* **Longer Term Outcome:** Improved safety and security for people with disabilities who have visual impairments in the Okanagan.

**Accessibility Objective: Accessible arts, culture and tourism**

* **Shorter Term Outcomes:** The work of 20-30 artists with disabilities is available to a larger audience. 20-30 people with disabilities are empowered to create art or participate in cultural activities.
* **Longer Term Outcome:** More youth with disabilities are able to meaningfully engage in arts, culture, and tourism in Northern BC.

**Accessibility Objective: Accessible sports and recreation**

* **Shorter Term Outcomes:** 50 people with disabilities are provided new or improved opportunities to participate in sports and formalized recreation activities. Sports and recreational programs are developed or adapted to better include 75 people with disabilities.
* **Longer Term Outcome:** More children with disabilities and families in BC are able to participate in all levels of sport and recreation.

**Accessibility Objective: Accessible education and learning**

* **Shorter Term Outcomes:** 15-20 people with disabilities are able to access educational opportunities that would not have been available to them otherwise. 2 new educational programs are adapted or developed to address barriers to access for 40-50 people with disabilities.
* **Longer Term Outcome:** Young adults with disabilities are able to access academic and other educational opportunities in the Thompson area.

**Accessibility Objective: Accessible community participation**

* **Shorter Term Outcomes:** New programs are developed that help promote greater community engagement and reduce isolation for 200-300 people with disabilities. 500-600 people with disabilities are better able to contribute to their communities.
* **Longer Term Outcome:** Stigma and misconceptions about people with disabilities are significantly reduced

## Ineligible projects

The following types of projects are ineligible:

* Projects focused on large capital costs rather than on community engagement. Large capital costs are defined as fixed one-time expenses to purchase or upgrade land, buildings, technology and other equipment, and include accessibility improvements to buildings or outdoor spaces.
* Research studies or projects aimed at producing policy briefs that do not directly result in improved accessibility outcomes for people with disabilities.
* Projects that provide or donate funds directly to people with disabilities other than for wages, honoraria, contract fees, or expenses directly related to project participation. This includes bursaries to participate in an already existing program or project.
* A project from an organization that received an Accessibility Projects Grant as the main applicant less than 5 years ago.
* A project that has previously received funding from the Accessibility Projects Grants.

## Project Partnerships

Partnerships are encouraged. However, only one organization may be the main applicant for funding for each project. The applicant will be considered the project’s lead organization and responsible for the project’s deliverables and conducting the majority of the project’s activities. Optionally, up to two signed letters of collaboration can be submitted from the secondary partner(s) to explain their role in the project and contribution to the partnership. These must be in addition to, and not a replacement for, the mandatory two letters of support from local organizations who are not directly involved in or financially benefiting from the project (please see Application Package section for more information).

# Part Three: Project Budget

Using the Project Budget template provided, project proposals must provide a realistic and clearly defined budget with detailed expenditures. Please include only the funds requested of DABC in section A. If you have other funding sources for this project in addition to DABC, providing full details of the project budget, including those funding sources, is optional but encouraged and can be done in section B and C. A separate spreadsheet can also be submitted in addition to the budget template if needed (maximum one page).

Eligible Costs

* Direct project operating and service delivery costs such as salaries, contract fees, honoraria, project supplies, meeting and travel costs. Wage/compensation should be clearly explained with numbers, duration of employment, and compensation (e.g. staff/contactors will be working on this project, e.g. 1.0 FTE @ 40 weeks @ $ 25.00 per hour).
* An administration fee of up to 10% of the project budget.
* Please note: wages should reflect the living wage in your region. For information on living wages, please see: [Living Wages in BC and Canada - Living Wage for Families BC](https://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/living_wage_rates).
* Projects should be informed by the lived experiences of people with disabilities. If people with disabilities are actively providing feedback in your project, we encourage honoraria to compensate them for their expertise.

## Ineligible Costs

* Project administration fees in excess of10% of the total project budget.
* Shared costs, including rent and office supplies.
* Professional membership fees.
* Large capital costs: fixed one-time expenses to purchase or upgrade land, buildings, technology and other equipment (for example accessibility improvements to buildings or outdoor spaces). Smaller capital expenses and items with a shorter life span that are replaced on a regular basis will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Other costs not directly related to the project.

**We look forward to your applications!**