

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Application due Thursday, July 23, 2026










National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Knowledge Translation Center

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPAD-0220



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, July 23, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

In this step

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Basic information

Administration for Community Living

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Summary

Research, technical assistance, training, dissemination, and utilization activities to improve knowledge translation and implementation of the ADA.

Funding details

Type: Grant

Expected funding: \$850,000

Expected awards: 1

Funding range: \$850,000 to \$845,000.

We plan to fund one award in three 12-month budget periods for a total three-year period of performance of September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2029.

Length of project period: 36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods.



Have questions?

See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name: Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Network Knowledge Translation Center

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPAD-0220

Federal assistance listing: 93.433

Statutory authority: Title II of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. 29 U.S.C. § 762(g) and 764(a)

Key dates

Application deadline: July 23, 2026

Optional notice of intent deadline: July 14, 2026

Expected start date: September 1, 2026

Expected award date: September 1, 2026

Informational conference call: June 30, 2026

Eligibility

Who can apply

Eligible applicants

Only these types or organizations may apply:

- States.
- Public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies.
- Public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations.
- Institutions of higher education.
- Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.

Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is not responsive to each of the requirements in the Program Description section of this notice.
- Is from an individual, including a sole proprietorship, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACL.
- Proposes a budget that exceeds the Award ceiling described in the Funding Details section of this NOFO.
- Proposes a project period that exceeds 36 months.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement, meaning you do not need to contribute to the costs of this project.

If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review.

Cost sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your [federal financial reports](#).

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

Title II of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. 29 U.S.C. § 762(g) and (764(a)).

Program description

Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public accommodations, State and local government activities, and telecommunications.

Since 1991, NIDILRR has funded 10 regional Centers to provide ADA training, technical assistance, and ADA materials to people and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA. These 10 regional centers, along with the ADA Knowledge Translation Center and the ADA Collaborative Research Project, comprise what ACL and NIDILRR refer to as the ADA National Network.

The ADA National Network is the only federally-sponsored national network of technical assistance centers dedicated to providing information, training, and technical assistance on the ADA. ADA Centers also conduct research to develop new knowledge about barriers to ADA compliance, strategies for its effective implementation, and greater understanding of stakeholders' need for and use of ADA National Network services.

NIDILRR has adopted the conceptual framework of knowledge translation (KT) to help guide its efforts to promote the effective use of knowledge and products from its sponsored activities. Knowledge translation in the NIDILRR context refers to a multidimensional, active process of ensuring that new knowledge and products gained via research and development are relevant to the users' needs, reach intended users, are understood by these users, and are used to improve the lives of people with disabilities and further their participation in society.

To optimize the knowledge translation outcomes of the ADA National Network, ACL and NIDILRR intend to fund an ADA KT Center. The ADA KT Center will support the ADA National Network's efforts by providing KT expertise, training, technical assistance, and logistical support. The ADA KT Center will facilitate coordination, organization, and collaboration among the ADA National Network grantees and generate new knowledge about optimal methods to enhance stakeholder's use of knowledge about their rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

Applicants can find information about the currently funded ADA KT Center and ADA Regional Centers at the [ADA National Network web site](#) and the [National Rehabilitation Information Center \(NARIC\) web site](#).

The purpose of this program

This priority is in alignment with:

- The following [ACL strategic priorities](#):
 - Connecting people to services.
 - Whole-person health.
 - Employment.
 - Protecting rights and preventing abuse.

ACL's Administrator establishes a priority for a Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project (DRRP) grant to serve as the Americans with Disabilities Act National Network Knowledge Translation Center (ADA KT Center).

All Center activities must be conducted in partnership with relevant ADA stakeholders as well as other ADA National Network grantees. For purposes of this priority, the term "ADA stakeholders" refers to people and entities with rights and responsibilities under the ADA.

The ADA KT Center must ensure that all websites and information technology tools and products that it develops or maintains are in compliance with standards developed under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d). For websites, this compliance currently requires meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0/2/1 AA success criteria.

The ADA KT Center must be designed to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Optimal efficiency and impact of the ADA National Network's services, which include outreach, training, technical assistance, information dissemination, research, and capacity building activities. The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by:
 - Maintaining the ADA National Network's internal online document sharing capacity that enables the 10 ADA Regional Centers to share training and technical assistance documents and other materials.
 - Organizing and facilitating an effective and efficient process for joint development of ADA network informational products and materials by the 10 ADA Regional Centers. The process must aim to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize resources, with the highest priority on developing national informational products to be distributed as ADA National Network products on behalf of the entire network. This process must facilitate review and approval of products by all Regional Centers. This process must also facilitate appropriate testing of informational products with relevant target audiences.

- Serving as the central public repository for ADA National Network information and products and maintaining the ADA Network document portal and website currently funded by NIDILRR. The ADA KT Center may propose new methods and approaches to improve upon the existing public information repository and dissemination system.
- Organizing and providing logistical and financial support for the ADA Regional Centers' Project Directors meetings, to be held twice per year in Washington, DC. The meetings are expected to occur in person unless extenuating circumstances prohibit in-person meeting, and in such cases the meetings may occur virtually, as approved by NIDILRR. These meetings will facilitate collaboration between the 10 ADA Regional Centers, the ADA KT Center, and the ADA Research Collaborative Project (currently funded from 2022 - 2027). These meetings will also allow the grantees to meet and exchange information directly with their Federal partners in the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and other relevant agencies within and outside of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Providing KT support to the ADA Regional Centers as they provide ADA Network Services in a way that maximizes ADA knowledge and impact among the range of stakeholders in their regions.
- Ensuring ongoing access to the ADA National Network's information, products, and resources as well as the adata.org website by cooperating and collaborating with the previous ADA KT Center grantee to ensure a smooth and orderly transition, if necessary. The new grantee, if applicable, must coordinate with NIDILRR and the previous grantee to ensure a successful transition. This cooperation and collaboration, if necessary, will ensure that the public maintains uninterrupted access to the products, resources, and website as appropriate during the transition period.
- Increased awareness and use of ADA-related research findings and ADA-related information by appropriate ADA stakeholder groups. The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by:
 - Conducting research on knowledge translation methods or approaches that would help to improve use of the ADA-related research findings and ADA-related information by relevant stakeholders.
 - Developing and disseminating research briefs, at least annually. Topics for research briefs must be based on syntheses of available ADA research and on stakeholder interests and information needs identified by the ADA Regional Centers and other stakeholders as appropriate.
 - Combining or adapting and then applying knowledge translation approaches from the existing literature to disseminate and promote the use of ADA-related

research generated by the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Project (currently funded from 2022-2027), ADA Network Regional Centers, and other ADA-related NIDILRR-funded projects as appropriate.

- Organizing and providing logistical and financial support for an ADA Research Conference to disseminate ADA-related research findings as well as to facilitate discussion and information exchange between researchers and other stakeholders. This conference must include ADA-related research findings produced by ADA National Network researchers, other NIDILRR-funded researchers, and other ADA researchers at large. This conference must be planned in close collaboration with NIDILRR and take place in year three of the ADA National Network grant cycle.
- Improved understanding of ADA stakeholders' need for and receipt of ADA National Network services over time, including identifying emerging issues related to compliance with ADA requirements. The ADA KT Center must contribute to this outcome by:
 - Continuing the operation and maintenance of the existing database of information submitted by each of the ADA Regional Centers. This database is known as the Outcome Measurement System (OMS) and is presently operated by the current ADA KT Center at the University of Washington. This database was designed to house data on the ADA Regional Centers' core activities including training, technical assistance, public awareness events, and dissemination of materials. In operating and maintaining this database, the ADA KT Center must ensure confidentiality of personally identifiable information and provide quality control and data-retrieval capabilities, using cost-effective technologies and a user-friendly interface. Applicants may request technical information on the OMS by contacting the Competition Manager, Linda Vo, at linda.vo@acl.hhs.gov.
 - In response to NIDILRR requests, performing analyses to provide aggregated information from the OMS data.
 - Providing standard and formal training to any staff from the 10 ADA Regional Centers who will be responsible for collecting OMS data or entering data into the OMS, including training on the standard operating procedures for data collection and entry, and data integrity. This training program must be developed within the first 6 months of the grant. The ADA KT Center must train all applicable Regional center staff within the first year of the grant. The ADA KT Center must also provide additional relevant training and technical assistance to ADA Regional Center staff throughout the life of the grant on an as-needed basis.

- Monitoring the quality of data submitted by the ADA Regional Centers and working with the ADA Regional Centers to optimize data quality. The ADA KT Center must:
 - Perform baseline analyses of OMS data quality and submit a written report to NIDILRR within 6 months of the project start date.
 - Based the findings from (i), in collaboration with the ADA Regional Centers and in consultation with NIDILRR, develop a plan and process for monitoring data quality, such as missing data and content accuracy for each data field. This data quality monitoring must occur at regular intervals.
 - Develop appropriate benchmarks for achievement and maintenance of optimal data quality.
 - Obtain NIDILRR approval of the data quality plan and implement it throughout the grant cycle.
- Collaborating with NIDILRR and the ADA Regional Centers to ensure that the database is accurate, comprehensive, easy to use, and up to date.
- Collaborating with NIDILRR and the ADA Regional Centers to continue measuring and tracking the outcomes and impact of the ADA National Network Services.
- Collaborating with the ADA Regional Centers to conduct periodic assessments of the knowledge, information, and service needs of ADA stakeholders. These needs assessments must be conducted through analyses of OMS data to identify emerging issues related to stakeholder rights and responsibilities under the ADA.
- Producing, and promoting awareness of and access to, an annual public report. This report must be based on OMS data and must share information on ADA National Network Services provided by the 10 ADA Regional Centers, including aggregate numbers and information about service recipients, and other non-confidential statistics, as appropriate. The report must describe the ADA titles under which the ADA Network Services were sought, and the numbers of services provided and materials distributed. The report must also provide examples of success stories that describe the impact and outcomes of ADA National Network Services. Applicants may request the ADA National Network Annual Report from the Competition Manager, Linda Vo, at Linda.Vo@acl.hhs.gov.

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

Policies

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations, and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate: racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.
 - Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.
- You may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
- Under this NOFO, you can't continue existing projects without expansion or new and innovative approaches.
- Meals are allowed only in limited circumstances linked to program activities, like during travel or when approved in advance by ACL. See Allowable Costs and

Activities, Exhibit 4: Selected Items of Cost, Meals in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#).

- There are restrictions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance equipment. See [2 CFR 200.216](#) to make sure this does not apply to any proposed equipment in your application.

Unallowable costs

- Construction or major rehabilitation of buildings.
- For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR 200.420](#).

Indirect costs

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1 – Approved rate. You currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#).

Method 2 – *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see [the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACL grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).



Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

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Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can search for it at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using opportunity number [HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPAD-0220](https://www.grants.gov/oppo/HHS-2026-ACL-NIDILRR-DPAD-0220). Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe button** from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

You can also find materials at [Applying for Grants on ACL's website](#).

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](#) for assistance.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Join the informational call

We will provide general information about this funding opportunity at an informational conference call. It will be held on:

- **Date:** June 30, 2026
- **Time:**

You must register for this call in advance.

Contact Megan.Alvarado@acl.hhs.gov to register for this call.



Step 3:

Build Your Application

In this step

Application contents and format

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Application contents and format

Applications include five main components. This section includes guidance on each.

Make sure you include each of these:

Component	Submission format
Project abstract	Use the Project Abstract Summary Form.
Project narrative	Use the Project Narrative Attachment form
Budget narrative justification	Use the Budget Narrative Attachment form
Attachments	Insert each in the Other Attachments form.
Other required forms	Upload using each required form.

Required format for application contents

Font: Times New Roman or Arial

Format: PDF

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in graphics must be 12-point.

Spacing for project narrative main content: Double-spaced

Spacing for budget narrative: As needed

Spacing for project summary, tables, footnotes: Single-spaced.

Please note: Applicants who unnecessarily place project narrative text in tables or figures to avoid the double-spacing requirement run the risk of exceeding the page limit.

Margins: 1-inch

Include page numbers.

Project abstract

Page Limit: 1

Provide a detailed yet concise description of your proposed project, activities, and intended outcomes. The abstract can be single- or double-spaced.

Project narrative

Page Limit: 80 pages

The project narrative is the most important part of the application. We use it as the primary basis to decide whether your project addresses the requirements described in the program description section of this NOFO. We also use the content narrative to review the merit of your project. The project narrative should give a clear and concise description of your project.

You should address these [merit review criteria](#) as you write your project narrative.

- Responsiveness to the priority.
- Alignment with ACL strategic priorities.
- Design of research activities.
- Design of development activities.
- Design of dissemination activities.
- Design of utilization activities.
- Design of training activities.
- Design of technical assistance activities.
- Collaboration.
- Plan of operation.
- Project staff.
- Adequacy and accessibility of resources.

Include all critical information in the project narrative and not in appendices.

Cite all of your sources in the project narrative.

We will instruct reviewers to disregard all content on the pages beyond the 80th page of your project narrative.

Work plan

You must provide a work plan for your project within your Project Narrative. The work plan connects your goals, anticipated outcomes, and the major tasks you are proposing.

The work plan must cover all years of the project period.

To complete your work plan, see the [project work plan sample template](#) on our website.

Budget justification narrative

Page Limit: None

The budget narrative supports the information you provide in Standard Form 424-A. See [\[other required forms\]\(#45-step-3-build-your-application-other-required-forms\)](#).

It includes added detail and justifies the costs you ask for. As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are reasonable and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See [funding limitations](#).

Justify all the costs, including showing how you calculated them. To create your budget narrative, see the [sample format \[PDF\]](#) on our website.

You must submit a budget for each year of grant funding requested.

Attachments

You will upload attachments in [Grants.gov](#) using the Other Attachments Form.

Table of contents

Page Limit: None

The table of contents should show where and how the important sections of your proposal are organized. While you will submit your proposal electronically, the reviewers may use printed copies during the review process. The table of contents will assist reviewers as they evaluate your proposal.

References

Page Limit: None

You must provide references for works cited in the project narrative. You may provide references in any format (i.e., APA, AMA, MLA). The format must be consistent throughout the project narrative.

Vitae/biosketches of key personnel

Page Limit: None

You must provide vitae or biosketches of key personnel for the project. The vitae or biosketches should include information that is relevant to your proposed project. You are encouraged to use the [NIH's biographical sketch format](#). This format gives reviewers a

concise description of your training, expertise, and productivity that is related to the proposed project.

Data management plan

Page Limit: None

You must provide a data management plan for your project. We will review the data management plan for compliance before making an award.

The data management plan is your plan for making your NIDILRR-funded data available to the public at the end of your grant. The Data Management Plan must include the following:

- A description of the types of data you will collect for your project.
- A description of how you will organize, store, and preserve your project data.
- A description of the metadata to be provided for useful analysis of the data by others. Metadata include descriptions and labels for variables and values in your dataset.
- A description of the data repository that you will use to make your data available to the public at the end of your grant. We recommend that you use the [ICPSR](#) as your data repository, but you may select a different data repository.
 - If you select a different data repository, you must provide information on how the data repository will provide long-term preservation and free public access to the project data.
- If applicable, describe why your data cannot be submitted to a data repository.
- A description of the informed consent process that will enable data sharing.
- Costs associated with data management can be included in your budget.

If you require technical assistance in preparing your data management plan for this application, contact ICPSR at ICPSR-help@umich.edu or 734-647-2200.

Commitment letters

Page Limit: None

You must include commitment letters from key individuals and organizations that will have a significant role in carrying out your project. A letter should explain their role and commitment to your project.

Summary of key individuals and organizations

Page Limit: None

You must submit a list of key individuals and their organizations that will have a significant role in your project. This includes consultants and contractors.

We will use this information to screen for conflicts of interest with potential peer reviewers for your application.

Indirect cost rate agreement

Page Limit: None

Please attach a copy of your current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another Federal agency.

Other required forms

You will need to complete some standard forms. Upload the standard forms listed below at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov forms](#).

Forms	Submission Requirement
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With application.
Supplemental Information for the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance [PDF]	With application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With application.
Project Narrative Attachment form	With application.
Attachments	With application.
Project/Performance Site Location(s)	With application.
Grants.gov Lobbying form(Certification Regarding Lobbying)	With application.
Project Abstract Summary	With application.

Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples \[PDF\]](#).



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

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Application review

Initial review

We review each application to make sure it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualifying factors section](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

If your application exceeds the page limit for the project narrative, we will instruct reviewers to not review the pages that exceed the page limit. See the [required format](#) section.

Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The members use the criteria and subcriteria below. Review criteria come primarily from NIDILRR's program regulations ([45 CFR 1330.24](#))

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Responsiveness to the priority	5 points
2. Alignment with ACL Strategic Priorities	5 points
3. Design of research activities	10 points
4. Design of development activities	10 points
5. Design of dissemination activities	10 points
6. Design of utilization activities	10 points
7. Design of training activities	10 points
8. Design of technical assistance activities	10 points
9. Collaboration	10 points
10. Plan of operation	5 points
11. Project staff	10 points
12. Adequacy and accessibility of resources	5 points

Criteria

Responsiveness to the priority (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the applicant addresses all requirements in the priority.
- The extent to which the applicant's proposed activities are likely to achieve the purposes of the priority.

Alignment with ACL Strategic priorities (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the proposed project aligns with [ACL's strategic priorities](#) of Connecting people to services, Whole-person health, Employment, and Protecting rights and preventing abuse.

Design of research activities (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the proposed design includes a comprehensive and informed review of the current literature, demonstrating knowledge of the state-of-the-art.
- The extent to which each research hypothesis or research question, as appropriate, is theoretically sound and based on current knowledge.
- The extent to which each sample is drawn from an appropriate, specified population and is of sufficient size to address the proposed hypotheses or research questions, as appropriate, and to support the proposed data analysis methods.
- The extent to which the source or sources of the data and the data collection methods are appropriate to address the proposed hypotheses or research questions and to support the proposed data analysis methods.
- The extent to which the data analysis methods are appropriate.
- The extent to which input of individuals with disabilities and other key stakeholders is used to shape the proposed research activities.
- The extent to which implementation of the proposed research design is feasible, given the current state of the science and the time and resources available.
- The extent to which the applicant identifies and justifies the stage of research being proposed and the research methods associated with the stage.

Design of development activities (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the proposed project employs appropriate concepts, components, or systems to develop the new or improved product.
- The extent to which the proposed project employs appropriate samples in tests, trials, and other development activities.
- The extent to which input from individuals with disabilities and other key stakeholders is obtained to establish and guide proposed development activities.

- The extent to which the new products will be developed and tested in an appropriate environment.
- The extent to which implementation of the proposed development design is feasible, given the current state of the science and the time and resources available.

Design of dissemination activities (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the methods for dissemination are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
- The extent to which the materials and information to be disseminated and the methods for dissemination are appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the familiarity of the target population with the subject matter, format of the information, and subject matter.
- The extent to which the information to be disseminated will be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Design of utilization activities (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the utilization strategies are likely to be effective.
- The extent to which the potential new users of the information or technology have a practical use for the information and are likely to adopt the practices or use the information or technology, including new devices.

Design of training activities (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the proposed training materials are likely to be effective, including consideration of their quality, clarity, and variety.
- The extent to which the proposed training methods are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
- The extent to which the proposed training materials and methods are accessible to people with disabilities.

Design of technical assistance (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the methods for providing technical assistance are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration.
- The extent to which the technical assistance is appropriate to the target population, including consideration of the knowledge level of the target population, needs of the target population, and format for providing information.
- The extent to which the technical assistance is accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- Collaboration (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the applicant’s proposed collaboration with one or more agencies, organizations, or institutions is likely to be effective in achieving the relevant proposed activities of the project.
- The extent to which agencies, organizations, or institutions demonstrate a commitment to collaborate with the applicant.

Plan of operation (Maximum points: 5)

- The adequacy of the plan of operation to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, and timelines for accomplishing project tasks.
- The adequacy of the plan of operation to provide for using resources, equipment, and personnel to achieve each objective.

Project staff (Maximum points: 10)

- The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from people with disabilities, who may include but are not limited to people with disabilities who have the greatest support needs.
- The extent to which the key personnel and other key staff have appropriate training and experience in disciplines required to conduct all proposed activities.

Adequacy and accessibility of resources (Maximum points: 5)

- The extent to which the applicant is committed to provide adequate facilities, equipment, other resources, including administrative support, and laboratories, if appropriate.
- The extent to which the facilities, equipment, and other resources are appropriately accessible to individuals with disabilities who may use the facilities, equipment, and other resources of the project.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you’ve handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) Responsibility/Qualification to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000. We also check Exclusions.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

You can see more details about risk review at [2 CFR 200.206](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-200/subpart-200.206).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects, including project type and geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant. We may choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Reasonableness of proposed costs to the expected results and the likelihood you will achieve those results.
- Available funding.

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

The ACL Administrator makes all final award decisions.

Before we make final funding decisions, ACL leadership will review all potential awards.

They will check for:

- Adherence to applicable laws.
- Alignment to agency priorities (see [Administration for Community Living's \(ACL\) Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities](#)).
- To the extent allowed by law and court orders, we will give a funding preference to applications that align with agency priorities. Your application may receive this preference if it aligns with one or more of the following ACL strategic priorities: Connecting people to services, Whole-person health, Employment, or Protecting rights and preventing abuse.

Award notices

If you are successful, we will email a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you or write you a letter if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you don't have permission to start work.

To see what is in a NoA, see an example on our [website \[PDF\]](#).



Step 5: Submit Your Application

In this step

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Application submission and deadlines

See [find the application package](#) to make sure you have everything you need.

Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements. See [get registered](#). You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.

Deadlines

Optional notice of intent

Due on July 14, 2026.

We ask that you let us know if you plan to apply for this opportunity. We do this to plan for the number of expert reviewers we will need to evaluate applications. You do not have to submit a notice of intent to apply.

Please email the notice to Megan.Alvarado@acl.hhs.gov.

In your email, include:

- The funding opportunity number and title.
- The name and contact information for the project principal investigator.
- A brief description of the proposed activities.
- A list of key individuals and their organizations that will have a significant role in your project.
- A list of individuals whose selection as a peer reviewer might constitute a conflict of interest due to their involvement in the application development.

Application

Due on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or [Grants.gov](#) service.

If you can't submit your application because of problems with Grants.gov, you will need verification for us to consider accepting your application. Call the [Federal Service Desk](#) before the application due time and record your tracking number. Save your tracking number and any error messages you receive.

Submission methods

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. See [get registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [quick start guide for applicants](#).

Make sure that your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks or we may not get it. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. The link above will also help you learn how to create PDFs.

If you can't submit your application because of problems with Grants.gov, you will need verification for us to consider accepting your application. Call the [Federal Service Desk](#) before the application due time and record your tracking number. Save your tracking number and any error messages you receive.

See [contacts and support](#) if you need help.

Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to executive order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. No action is needed.

Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply:

Component	How to Upload	Included in page limit?
<input type="checkbox"/> Project abstract	Use the Project Abstract Summary Form.	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project narrative , including Work Plan	Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget justification narrative	Use the Budget Narrative Attachment form.	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Attachments	Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table of contents		
<input type="checkbox"/> References		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Vitae/biosketches of key personnel		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Data management plan		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Commitment letters		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Summary of key individuals and organizations		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect cost agreement		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other required forms	Upload using each required form.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Information for the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Narrative Attachment Form		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Attachments		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project/Performance Site Location(s)		No

Component	How to Upload	Included in page limit?
<input type="checkbox"/> Grants.gov Lobbying Form (Certification Regarding Lobbying)		No
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Abstract Summary		No



Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

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Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you need to know if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award. You can find information at [managing a grant](#) on our website. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in 2 CFR 300.
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#). This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements.
- All anti-discrimination laws: By applying for or accepting federal funds from HHS, recipients certify compliance with all federal antidiscrimination laws and these requirements and that complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding streams. Recipients are responsible for ensuring subrecipients, contractors, and partners also comply.
- The [ACL Public Access Policy \[PDF\]](#).
- All [regulations](#) for the protection of the rights, welfare, and wellbeing of human subjects involved in research conducted or supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The HHS Office for Human Research Protections](#) has information and resources related to these important requirements.

Compliance and oversight

Recipients must demonstrate ongoing compliance with the [Administration for Community Living's \(ACL\) Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities](#) through program design, implementation, performance reporting, fiscal management, and evaluation.

Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with applicable statutory authorities and agency priorities may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, enforcement actions, or other remedies consistent with 2 CFR Part 200 and the terms and conditions of the award.

Through alignment with these priorities, funded projects will help ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can live with dignity, independence, and full participation in the communities they call home.

Managing award changes

After award, either you or ACL may request changes. We manage these using the rules at 2 CFR 200 and 300, including [2 CFR 200.308](#) and [2 CFR 300.308](#).

Reporting

If your application is successful, you will have to submit financial and performance reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Managing a Grant, Funding Requirements on our website](#).

Financial and performance reports

The terms and conditions in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

FFATA and FSRS reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry at the FFATA Subaward Reporting System for all sub-awards and sub-contracts you issue for \$30,000 or more.



Contacts and support

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Agency contacts

Program and eligibility

Linda Vo

Linda.Vo@acl.hhs.gov

Telephone: 202-795-7431

Financial and budget

Nicole Dunning

Nicole.Dunning1@acl.hhs.gov

Review process and application status

Linda Vo

Linda.Vo@acl.hhs.gov

Telephone: 202-795-7431

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Telephone 1-800-518-4726
- Email support@Grants.gov.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [federal service desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [HHS Office For Human Research Protections](#)
- [Home Page | ACL Administration for Community Living](#)
- [Applying for Grants | ACL Administration for Community Living](#)
- [Application Tips | ACL Administration for Community Living](#)
- [How to Apply for a Competitive Grant | ACL Administration for Community Living](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#)