

AVID Disability Initiative Grants

Advancing opportunities for people with disabilities through the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program

Background: Disability-inclusive development through AVID

The Australian Government is committed to playing a leadership role internationally in disability-inclusive development to enable people with disabilities in developing countries to find pathways out of poverty and to realise their full potential (*Ministerial foreword, the Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Development for All 2015–2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program*). The Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program has already been playing a positive role in pursuing disability-inclusive development by creating volunteer assignments that target disability-specific or disability-inclusive initiatives in targeted and mainstream organisations. By creating these assignments and placing volunteers into local host organisations, volunteers are assisting with breaking down the many barriers that exist for people with disability in developing countries.

Purpose of the grants

As a way of further supporting volunteer initiatives and activities that target the cross cutting theme of disability, and to continue to provide opportunities for capacity development and equal opportunity for people with disabilities, Australian volunteers may apply for an AVID Disability Initiative Grant.

The maximum amount for funding is **AUD\$1,000**.

Interested volunteers are required to complete the online application form and answer questions relating to the scope, reach, impact and budget of their proposed initiative. Shortlisted applicants will then be required to send quotes and / or invoices of costs associated with their application and partake in a Skype interview with AVID's Disability Development Officer.

Successful applicants are required to complete and submit the **Additional Disability Funding Impact Report** by the date specified during their Skype interview.

Examples of initiatives that could be supported include but are not exclusive to:

Category	Example
1. Education	Providing a 10 week training program on disability with a local translator, delivered in conjunction with people with disabilities from the local region.
2. System / process	Support or create new systems or processes that represent a new way of doing things, achieving goals more effectively through the host organisation to include / strengthen disability inclusion.
3. Service	Any new services provided through the host organisation that have been innovatively developed and include and benefit people with disabilities, e.g. screen reading compatibility built into new website designs.
4. Equipment	The provision of equipment to assist with raising awareness / delivering messages about disability.
5. Use of new technology	Online applications that help people with disabilities, upskilling people with disabilities so they can use technology / devices as a means of engagement and income generation.
6. Use of internet and social media	Commencement of innovative internet activity, e.g. social media, interactive games etc., to raise awareness and understanding of disability.

Reimbursement of expenditure on successful applications

- The volunteer will be responsible for receiving the required funds from the Disability Development Officer
- The volunteer is required to source quotes for equipment or services that are part of the application. The volunteer should not incur any expenditure until the funds have been received.

Essential minimum criteria:

- Assignments of six months in duration or longer and with at least two months remaining from the closing date of application
- Applications must align with strategies included in DFAT's Development For All strategy (you can download a copy [here](#))
- Applications must justify *how* the proposed activity will increase awareness and understanding of disability, increase participation of people with disability and / or remove barriers and increase accessibility for people with disability. Applications must also state who the intended primary beneficiaries of the activity will be, providing estimates of numbers.
- A willingness and agreement to complete an **impact report** which details the outcomes of your initiative or activity.

How to apply

1. Join the webinars hosted by the Disability Development Officer to learn more about the background of the grants and the process of applying
2. Discuss your idea with your supervisor / counterpart or team of your host organisation
3. Follow the link provided [here](#) to access the application questions during the funding round (see key dates below). Complete and submit these questions using this online portal
4. Refer to the 'useful tips' (below) when completing the questions
5. Email your In-Country Management Team to inform them of your application (if you are shortlisted they will be contacted to endorse your application)
6. Your application will be assessed by a panel of a minimum of three people and will be assessed against the available budget

Key Dates

Funding round three	
5 May 2017	Applications open
11:59pm ACDT 26 May 2017	Applications close
13 – 21 June 2017	Shortlisted applications complete Skype interview with AVID's Disability Development Officer
23 June 2017	Successful applicants confirmed and announced
23 June 2017	Unsuccessful applications notified and opportunity for feedback

Useful Tips for applying

1. Read the Development for All strategy (link provided in the purpose document) and ensure that your proposed initiative aligns with this strategy
2. In writing your application, ensure that the wording clearly demonstrates how your proposed activity or initiative will succeed in doing one or more of the following:
 - Increasing awareness / understanding of disability in the local context
 - Increase the participation of people with disability as part of the host organisation or in the broader community
 - Increase the skills and capabilities of people with disabilities for income generation initiatives
 - Linking multiple organisations together or engagement with specific disabled person's organisations
 - Reducing a barrier that is currently in place for people with disability (e.g. physical / environmental / policy / attitudinal)
3. Think about the number of people that will benefit from the initiative (cost to people ratio)
4. Think about the inclusion of people with disabilities in all stages of the initiative
5. Demonstrate how the initiative will impact on the wider community
6. If you are having difficulty with accessing or submitting your application please contact Alexandra Kay, Disability Development Officer at: Alexandra.Kay@scopeglobal.com