

Application Guidelines for Accessible Golf Program Grants

The National Alliance for Accessible Golf (Alliance) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) believe that golf should be open to everyone and supports a wide variety of programs that create opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in the sport. The Alliance and the USGA have formed a grant-making partnership to advance opportunities for individuals with disabilities through the game of golf. This partnership is a component of the USGA's "For the Good of the Game" Grants Initiative, which has contributed more than \$5 million since 1997 to programs that serve individuals with disabilities. USGA funds make these grants possible and the Alliance administers the grant making process.

MISSION AND FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Grants support organizations which provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to learn and enjoy the game of golf and its inherent values. The Alliance and the USGA share the belief that the game of golf is exceptionally well-suited to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in a recreational or competitive activity with participants who have various types of disabilities as well as those who do not have disabilities. We encourage **inclusive programming- opportunities that allow participants with disabilities and participants without disabilities to learn and play the game side by side.**

The Alliance Grants Committee believes that the values of the game are best learned by playing the game. As such, the Alliance places great emphasis on providing opportunities for participants to experience golf to the fullest extent possible. Programs should offer affordable and accessible opportunities for participants to experience golf both during scheduled programming and after programming is concluded.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All grant recipients must be tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations as defined under Section 501(c) 3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code or government entities such as public schools or municipalities.
- The Alliance will not provide funding to reimburse organizations for program expenses that have been incurred prior to a grant award being made.
- Eligibility for future grant funding is dependent on the organization's ability to successfully implement the proposed program and utilize Alliance grant funds as directed. The Alliance expects all applicants to demonstrate a plan for eventual self-sustainability through local sources and strongly recommends that successive grant requests comprise a decreasing percentage of the overall budget.

FUNDING GUIDELINES:

- **The Alliance will not provide 100% of the cash cost to operate any program.** Grant awards rarely exceed \$20,000. Applicants are expected to submit detailed information on other sources of revenue that will be used to support the program. The Alliance encourages applicants to develop a variety of individual, community, and private funding sources.
- Applicants should be aware that the Grants Committee often awards grants that include requirements for **matching funds to be raised and utilized** by the program during the grant period.
- The Alliance does not accept multi-year grant requests.
- The Alliance will consider requests for funds to assist with costs for the following core golf program costs:

Golf Course Access

Driving Range Access

Golf Instruction

Standard and Adaptive Golf Clubs and Bags

Adaptive Teaching Equipment

Transportation of participants to and from programming

Inclusion Activities

While costs associated with other program needs are expected, the Alliance has elected to focus on the above items. Funds for other program costs are expected to be acquired from sources other than the Alliance.

- The Alliance expects applicants to attempt to find the best possible prices for the above items through comparative shopping and negotiations. Applications should include information regarding the extent of discounts arranged.
- The USGA is pleased to be a supporter of Special Olympics Golf through its National Invitational Tournament. Through the Association's grant-making partnership with the Alliance, grant funds are available to Special Olympics state and local organizations only when they show significant program expansion and/or new programs or site improvements associated with the expansion. Costs specifically associated with this growth must be demonstrated. Local Special Olympics programs seeking support must operate golf programming in accordance with standards set forth by Special Olympics North America.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- **Impact:** Evidence that the program is likely to have a lasting and significant impact and outcome that will benefit program participants.
- **Participant Experience:** Evidence of an effective program structure, quality instruction, length of program, opportunities for participants to progress, and significant golf playing opportunities. Evidence that the specific needs of the participants are adequately addressed through the proposed program structure.
- **Leadership:** The presence of a strong program director ("local champion") who is capable of establishing, implementing, and evaluating the goals of the program. The presence of a board of directors or other oversight group that is accountable for carrying out the terms of the grant.
- **Outcomes Measurement:** Degree to which the applicant can identify and track positive outcomes that result from participation in the program. All grant recipients are required to report on the degree to which the program achieved its desired outcomes at the end of the grant period.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Evidence that the program is increasing its capacity and that sufficient local support exists to ensure that the program will continue for the long term. Evidence of the applicant organization's fiscal health and responsible financial management.
- **Financial Need:** The extent to which support is needed to allow the applicant to achieve its stated goals. Limited grant funds are available and the Alliance desires to invest in organizations that demonstrate financial need relative to other applicants.
- **Local Golf and other Community Organization Collaboration:** The extent to which an applicant organization has effectively explored and taken advantage of partnerships with local, state and regional golf associations, LPGA and PGA professionals, disability, rehabilitation and recreation organizations.
- **Performance During Previous Grant Periods:** The extent to which an applicant has implemented programming, achieved desired outcomes, and complied with grant policies during any previous grant periods.

The Alliance welcomes and encourages questions regarding its grant application and funding guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (812) 320-1126 or grants@accessgolf.org to discuss your program prior to submitting an application.

Funding Provided By

