



## Request for LOI's

### The Independence Center

In the 1970's and '80's a civil rights movement grew around the country made up of people living with a disability. Their goal was to live as independent a life as possible, to not be hidden away in nursing homes and institutions, to be able to take risks, and learn from their failures. The leaders of this movement formed an agency model and opened Independent Living Centers around the country.

The Independence Center is one of 9 Independent Living Centers from around Colorado. Our programming began in 1987 in response to a need for more reliable home health care services. In 1994 we expanded our services to also include Peer Support Groups, Information and Referral Services, Advocacy, and Independent Living Skills classes. Currently we offer many additional programs such as: Community Organizing, Benefits, Assistive Technology, Peer Mentoring, Emergency Preparedness, Home Modification Services, Employment, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programming.

The mission of The Independence Center is: *Working with people with disabilities, their families and the community, we create independence so that all may thrive.*

### The Independence Center Fund for People with Disabilities

#### Overview

The Board of Directors of The Independence Center, in a desire to honor the memory of Ted Skoog as well as to honor the great work of our founder Vicki Skoog, developed a fund to be called: The Independence Center Fund for People with Disabilities (The IC Fund). \$1,000,000 was set aside in a board-restricted account, and the interest from this account (estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$75,000/year) will be used on an ongoing annual basis to fund this new granting program. **In 2017 we will disperse \$50,000.**

#### Mission and Focus

The mission of the The IC Fund is:

**“To provide increased independence and accessibility for people with disabilities.”**

The mission was crafted by a committee of people with a variety of disabilities. The committee considered multiple potential focus areas for The IC Fund. Ultimately, this mission was agreed upon with the recognition that there are many viable approaches to achieving improved independence and a variety of types of projects and proposals is desirable in leading to a goal of increasing independence for people with disabilities.

Grant funds will support specific projects. Due to the limited amount of funds available, general operating support grant requests will not be funded.

#### Eligibility



## **Nonprofit Status**

Grants from The Independence Center Fund for People with Disabilities will be given to nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status or those operating under a non-profit fiscal sponsorship. Individuals, for-profit businesses, and government agencies are excluded from receiving funds.

## **Number of Grants and Average Grant Size**

**The maximum allowable amount to be granted to one organization in one year is \$10,000.** The number of grants made in a year will vary depending on the type of grant proposals that are funded and the final amount that will be designated by the Board of Directors during each fiscal year for grantmaking. However, it is estimated that in 2017 approximately 5 - 10 grants will be made, with an average grant size of between \$5,000 to \$10,000.

## **Grant Terms**

Grants will be awarded for a one year period. Grants may be renewable after one year. However it is not the intent of the Fund to provide ongoing funding to organizations. Seed funding for new projects will generally not be supported unless the proposed project will only last for one year or if there is clear evidence that other funders will support the project after the first year.

## **Format for Letter of Interest**

Please include the following information into your Letter of Interest. Length of the letter should be no more than one page with a minimum of a 12 point font and 1 inch margins.

- 1. Short history of the organization.**
- 2. Are you a non-profit organization? For profit business? Using an umbrella org?**
- 3. Program for which support is requested.**
- 4. How this program will help people with disabilities.**
- 5. Specific amount requested**
- 6. When will project begin and end.**
- 7. Contact information**

Letters should be mailed, or hand delivered to: The Independence Center, Attention: Development Department 729 S. Tejon St. Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Alternatively, you can email the LOI to [info@the-ic.org](mailto:info@the-ic.org), put attention Carrie on subject line. Please call Teri at 719-471-8181 x222 with any questions.

## **Timing for 2017 The IC Fund**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m.– Letters of Interest due to The IC**

**June 10<sup>th</sup> – You will be notified if a full proposal is desired**

**August 8<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 p.m. - Full proposals are due at The IC**

**Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> – Notification of award**

**Sept 27<sup>th</sup> – Checks are given out to agencies in a short ceremony.**