

# 2024

## Access for All Abilities Mini Grants

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at Rhode Island College is soliciting applications from local businesses and organizations for the 2024 Access for All Abilities Mini Grant cycle. Four grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded.

**Apply by Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

### Purpose

Increasing access for people with disabilities to social, leisure, recreational and cultural activities.

### Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be one of the following:
  - For-profit business
  - For-profit or nonprofit organization
  - Rhode Island school or school organization
  - Rhode Island city and town government agency
- Provide social, leisure, recreational or cultural activities to the public.
- Be located in Rhode Island or primarily serve Rhode Island communities.
- Demonstrate in their proposals sufficient resources to complete the proposed project within one year of receipt of the grant award.

Entities whose primary missions or client base is disability focused are **not eligible** for a grant award, however, are encouraged to support eligible businesses and organizations to develop a proposal that meets the established criteria.

We will prioritize applicants that actively include historically underrepresented groups and diverse communities such as veterans, refugees and LGBTQIA+ individuals.



A 2019 Access for All Abilities Mini Grant helped Roger Williams Park Zoo install a sensory pathway.

### → Review criteria

A panel of representatives from the Sherlock Center, including individuals with disabilities, will evaluate applications according to the degree to which:

- The applicant provides social, leisure, recreational, and/or cultural activities to the public.
- The proposal will result in increased participation or access of people with disabilities in leisure, recreational and/or cultural activities provided by the business/organization.
- The applicant engages with diverse populations or communities.
- The proposal meets a demonstrated or unmet need.
- The proposed project demonstrates sustainability or long-term impact.
- The proposal demonstrates an effective plan for outreach to people with disabilities to engage with the activities available at the business or organization and to evaluate the impact of the project.
- The proposal demonstrates sufficient resources to implement the proposed project within one year of receipt of the grant award.

## Funding examples

The Sherlock Center encourages applicants to think creatively! Examples of the type of projects that may be and will not be funded include, but are not limited to, the following.



### May be funded

- Purchase or development of specialized equipment or product to enable or enhance accessibility.
- Technical assistance or specific skills training.
- Scholarships or reduced fees.
- Modifications to an existing space or materials.
- Funding of an initial but measurable stage of a larger project (e.g., architectural plan), etc. Applicants may propose combining funds from other sources to support a larger project that meets the required one-year timeframe for completion.



### Will not be funded

- A new or current service or program designed to primarily or only engage people with disabilities (e.g., karate for kids with autism, dance classes for adults with disabilities, etc.)
- A service or product that will benefit a single individual or only people with disabilities served by one specific program or organization.
- A program focused on employment or developing employment-related skills (e.g., training programs, volunteer activities).
- A service or program focused on education or academic training.

See examples of past funded projects on the **Access for All Abilities Mini Grants** page, located in the **Resources** menu at [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org).

## Application process

Applicants are encouraged to apply using the online application. Applicants may also submit a proposal in person or by email, mail or fax. All applications and materials are available at [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org). Click Access for All Abilities Grants in the Resources menu.

**Apply online:** [bit.ly/2024-AAA-Mini-Grant](https://bit.ly/2024-AAA-Mini-Grant) or scan the QR code at right.



## Timelines

- Applicants must submit a complete application – online, postmarked, faxed or in person – by April 10, 2024.
- The Sherlock Center will notify recipients by Friday, May 3.
- The Sherlock Center will request that each grant recipient submit an invoice for the funds awarded and will subsequently issue a check within four to six weeks.
- Grantees must complete the proposed project within one year of the grant award.
- Grantees are required to submit a report documenting the project outcomes within 30 days of completion and no later than Aug. 1, 2025.

For more information or to request an application in an alternate format, contact Crystal Cerullo at 401-456-8915 or [ccerullo@ric.edu](mailto:ccerullo@ric.edu).

*The Sherlock Center, Rhode Island's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), receives funding for this initiative administered by the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD).*

*The Sherlock Center is located at Rhode Island College. Rhode Island College departments are not eligible to apply.*