



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

### **Small Grant Policy**

#### **Council's Mission:**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council's mission is to advance the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, empowering people, and promoting innovation.

Note: When the Council refers to "inclusion" we mean that people with developmental disabilities live, learn, work and participate in community life alongside people with and without disabilities.

What types of activities will the Council consider supporting with a Small Grant?  
ALL activities must further inclusion as defined above.

- Educating and informing policymakers about issues of importance to people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Supporting people with developmental disabilities and their family members to develop advocacy and leadership skills.
- Empowering people with developmental disabilities and their families to help shape policies, programs, and services that impact them.
- Demonstrating new and innovative approaches to supporting people to live, learn, work and enjoy community life alongside people without disabilities.
- Advocating for the elimination of barriers to full inclusion and community participation.
- Raising public awareness about people's contributions and capabilities so differences are respected and attitudes change.
- Other activities that increase empowerment, self-determination, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

What can the funds NOT be used for?

- Activities that are inconsistent with the Council's mission;
- Activities that only benefit one individual or family;

- Activities that focus only on people with disabilities, unless it is in support of a self-advocacy group;
- Food unless necessary to the success of the activity;
- T-shirts, buttons or similar items;
- Social activities or events;
- Fundraising;
- The Council typically does not fund equipment. To find out where you might get assistance with equipment, contact the Department of Disabilities- Constituent Services at 410-767-3660 or 1-800-637-4113;
- For sponsorships of conferences and other trainings in Maryland refer to the Council's *Education & Training Event Sponsorships* policy and application;
- For support to attend out-of-state conferences, refer to the Council's *Conference Participation Fund* policy and application.