

State and Local Advocacy & Action Coalitions

2024-2025 Application for Funding

Background

The Administration for Community Living launched The Grassroots Project in 2023 to provide people with disabilities and their support networks access to tools, resources, information, and peer-to-peer networking and ensure the perspectives, priorities, and preferences of disabled people are reflected in disability policies and service systems in their states and communities.

People with disabilities must be at the center of work to improve the nation's disability support systems. The Grassroots Project supports people with disabilities and disability advocates who want to make change where change is needed.

The project aims to equip people with disabilities and the people who support them with the knowledge they need to navigate the highly complex policy, practice, and financial systems that drive human services and supports. Specifically, the project will:

- Develop structures, processes, and relationships that build the next generation of cross-disability, cross-generational, and culturally diverse leaders.
- Connect, grow, and strengthen networks to support each other and share the skills and knowledge to advocate for improvements in the quality of community living.
- Support outreach and education to help people with disabilities stay informed about policies that affect them, understand how systems work, and how to effect change.

Building at the National and Local Levels

To achieve these goals, the project has established a [National Advocacy and Action Coalition](#) (NAAC) made up of national disability organizations. The NAAC supports collaboration and engagement at the national and local level to advance advocacy in the following ACL priority areas:

1. **Person-centered planning, consumer direction, and self-direction models** to expand autonomy, service experiences and outcomes
2. **Addressing and improving the caregiver crisis**

3. **Health and safety in community living** so that we are free from harm
4. **HCBS settings rule** implementation of waiver services and supports
5. **Civil Rights** protections for all people
6. **Community integration** in where we live and what we do
7. **Technology** access and use in ways that makes our lives better

Ultimately, the project aims to achieve two major outcomes: increasing the skills of advocates at the ground level and strengthening the voice of advocates with policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels.

Funding Opportunity:

The Grassroots Project is supporting State and Local coalition development through this funding opportunity. By bringing together different groups at different levels, the Grassroots Project will help to build a unique infrastructure of collaborative advocacy. The Grassroots Project is administered by Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), which will manage all aspects of the proposal review and awards, as well as the implementation of the projects once funded.

Who can apply?

Organizations focused on disability advocacy that are interested in building or expanding their coalitions and networks, developing informational and education tools and resources to support advocates to connect and engage in advocacy related to disability policy and service design and implementation in their state or local areas.

Organizations should have the capacity to accept and administer the funds available, and to execute a meaningful workplan.



What is the funding amount and time period?

Organizations can apply for funds up to \$30,000 for a period between January and September 31, 2024.

How many awards will there be?

We will fund between 8-12 state or local advocacy and action coalitions, depending on the scope and availability of funding.

What is the kind of work that can be supported?

To further the work of the Grassroots Project, the State and Local Advocacy and Action Coalitions will be funded to execute scopes of work in their communities which span the DD, IL, and TBI networks.

State and Local Advocacy and Action Coalitions might consider proposing the following types of activities. These are offered as suggestions, but the list is not exhaustive. If applicants are interested in pursuing an idea, they may contact grassroots@hsri.org for guidance. Please put “Grassroots Project Application question” in the subject line.

- Supporting efforts to enhance racial, cultural, disability, and geographic diversity of their membership, including asset mapping, listening sessions, and gap analysis to ensure full community representation in engaged partners.
- Supporting coalition building within and across state groups to connect across disability groups around shared interests.
- Providing training and TA to State and Local Advocacy and Action Coalitions using a variety of methods such as micro-learning, learning communities, webinars, and guidance resources.
- Supporting the development of local grassroots advocates across each state using promising approaches such as Partners in Policymaking and other proven approaches such as Asset-Based Community Development.

The selection for the initial cohort of State or Local Advocacy and Action Coalitions (StAAC and LAACs) this year will aim to fund to have a cohort of coalitions that is poised to benefit from technical assistance and align with the Plan to Address Gaps. Our vision is to produce a varied cohort that advances a range of grassroots advocacy priority areas.

We look forward to hearing from you about your coalition!

Please respond below with details about the work you propose doing in the coming year.

Applicant Information

1. Coalition Name
2. Host Organization Name
2. Name of Primary Contact Person
3. Email for Primary Contact Person
4. Current Number of Coalition Members
5. Current Coalition Organizational Partners
6. Current Coalition Website and/or Social Media

Coalition's current work

7. Briefly describe the current work of the coalition; including your advocacy priorities and activities
8. Briefly describe new, next, or different work the coalition would like to be doing.
9. What are current obstacles to your efforts?
10. How do you want to see your coalition grow in terms of new and different membership and/or new and different reach in your impact?

Core Grassroots Project StAAC and LAAC Activities

All StAACs and LAACs will be expected to engage at a minimum in the following ways:

- Convening coalition at least quarterly around an identified goal
- Produce at least one advocacy event or product
- Participating in evaluation activities and data collection as prescribed by HSRI
- Submission of monthly reports about activities
- Submission of monthly invoice for payment

- Responsive engagement with the ACL Grassroots Project in way such as participation in office hours, webinars, and learning collaborations.
- Execution of planned activities as outlined in the contract with flexible responsiveness to community needs.
- Engaging in HCBS Advocacy Activities such as mobilizing response to waiver amendments and renewals as well as ACL hosted meetings to prepare advocates for CMS site visit calls
- Participating in evaluation activities and data collection as requested by HSRI evaluation team.

Examples of activities:

We anticipate that STAACs and LAACs may engage in a range of activities to potentially include:

1. Support for in-person convening, including making virtual options (hybrid) available to facilitate accessibility.
 - Facilitation support
 - Technology needs, accessibility.
 - Promotion and communication.
 - Accessible transportation.
2. Development of resources to support educating a broad network of interested individuals, for example video or communication materials.
3. Hiring subject matter experts with national policy expertise to help break down and guide coalitions to prioritize actions in areas such as HCBS Waiver renewal advocacy.
4. Recruitment of coalition members including awareness building of priority topics., building a pipeline of disability advocates, particularly in communities experiencing marginalization and advocacy gaps.
5. Advocate stipends and travel reimbursement to replace earnings of advocacy coalition leaders who would otherwise be doing this on their own.
6. Activities to connect to intersecting issues and populations. Building connections across grassroots activity networks such as networks focused on racial equity, economic justice, housing justice.

Workplan

With the above information in mind, please provide a narrative for what you propose to do in one page or less and detail proposed activities by quarter.

Timeline

- **Please detail your planned activities for January -March 2025:**
- **Please detail your planned activities for April-June 2025:**
- **Please detail your planned activities for July-September 2025:**

How will your project address ACL's Priority areas? (note, it is not essential to address all priority areas but please indicate at least one).

- *Person-centered planning, consumer direction, and self-direction*
- *Caregiver crisis*
- *Health and safety in community living*
- *HCBS settings rule*
- *Civil Rights*
- *Community integration*
- *Technology*

Work Products

Please highlight below any tangible products resulting from your workplan which demonstrate your organizations leadership as part of this national coalition dedicated to advancing a generation of diverse and culturally competent disability advocates. *Products produced to support these aims might include toolkits, videos, press releases, issue or policy briefs, or other materials to meet the needs of the organizations' existing or developing network.*

Hosted Event

Please describe at least one event, on-line or virtual, that you will host either for your current network or for the public. Be specific about content, audience, aim, and impact data you will collect. *Events could include webinars, convenings, learning collaboratives, peer to peer meetings, and trainings.*



Budget

Please share a budget for this funding across the following categories, keeping in mind time for core activities such as data collection. *Budget categories should include at minimum staff time, contractor costs, materials and supplies, and other direct costs such as space for convenings, stipends for participants, etc.*

Logic Model

Please share a logic model reflecting the flow of inputs, outputs, and short and long-term outcomes. *For guidance, please see the ACL Logic Model Guidance resource here: <https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2020-10/ACL%20Logic%20Model%20Guidance.pdf>*

Sample

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes -- Impact		
	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Participation</i>	<i>Short</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Long</i>

Assumptions

External Factors

