



## SCI ARTIST-INNOVATOR FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do I have to be a person with spinal cord injury to apply to this grant?**

The SCI-Innovator Fund aims to provide funds for people living with spinal cord injury who are artists and/or innovators.

This program is made possible by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation supports programs that enhance participation and independence for people living with SCI but does not designate funding to individuals. Thus, prioritization for acceptance in programs hosted by grantees will be made at the sole discretion of each granting/hosting institution. The Program Officer is available to clarify any questions with regard to SCI qualification criteria, i.e., individuals with neurological and functional impairment due to traumatic SCI, degenerative disease primary to the spinal cord (transverse myelitis) or damage to the spinal cord due to tumors and surgery. Individuals with spinal dysfunction, paralysis or pain syndromes caused by other disorders are not eligible (e.g., multiple sclerosis, ALS, Chiari malformation and other developmental disorders, primary orthopedic disorders and peripheral nerve injury).

### **What kind of projects are eligible to apply?**

We are looking for artist-driven social enterprises. Projects must have a positive social impact and the potential to be revenue-generating. This is the first time we have offered this grant opportunity and cannot provide a list of Past Grantees. However, to help you understand the scope and variety of eligible projects we created some sample applicants and projects. [Examples of Competitive Profiles](#)

### **What kinds of items can I request funding for?**

Some possible items in your proposed budget can include: salaries, equipment, fees for training on a particular subject, disability-related expenses, hiring a personal assistant, marketing and promotional materials, prototype development, business strategy consultant, patent fees, and the like.

### **Do I have to be an artist to apply for this grant?**

You do not have to be an artist to apply for this grant. However, if you do not self-define as an artist, your innovation should reflect sustained refining much like a craft, or artistic practice would, to a degree that it reflects your unique identity and vision.

### **How many grants will you make?**

Ten to twelve grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded to individual artist-entrepreneurs with spinal cord injuries that meet eligibility criteria.

### **If I receive the funds all at once will it impact my disability services?**

This funding may be taxable. Grantees are advised to consult with an accountant, tax expert, and/or benefits specialist. We understand fund disbursement may impact disability-related community supports and are willing to structure options that work for each person's unique financial situation.